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MEMOIR

OF

JESSE AND HANNAH WILLIAMS,

LATE OF

PLYMOUTH,

MONTGOMERY COUNTY,

PENNSYLVANIA.

PHILADELPHIA:
WM. H. PILE, PRINTER, 422 WALNUT STREET.

1875.

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INTRODUCTION.

In the brief Memoirs of Jesse and Hannah Williams, it is observable that obedience to the "still, small voice" in the secret of the heart from day to day, was the only path of peace and safety; corresponding with what has been the experience of the righteous in all ages of the world. They were in early life brought under the discipline of the cross, being instructed to labor daily in the vineyard of their own hearts for soul-sustaining bread, and by endeavoring to let obedience keep pace with knowledge, and follow their Holy Leader in the way of his requirings, they were favored, as the conclusion of their time on earth drew near, with quiet composure, and a humble assurance of admittance into the realms of the blessed.

Although J. W.'s opportunities for obtaining a school education were limited, yet, having become a scholar in the school of Christ, he was made "Quick of understanding in the fear of the Lord;" and being

brought under exercise for the good of souls, he became qualified for service as a messenger of the gospel.

H. W. was early impressed with a sense that, "No great or public place" was for her; "But a good *example* was required in all things;" and it is instructive to observe her concern through life, to live answerably thereto. In this quiet, humble sphere, she had a daily work to do; being desirous of keeping her own vineyard, and was also exercised for the good of her fellow-creatures. She was, during the greater part of her life, engaged in the care of children and young people, and growing from stature to stature in religious experiences, she became one of the burden-bearers in the church, "An Elder worthy of double honor."

The following, from the hand of a worthy Elder of that time, who accompanied our friend JESSE WILLIAMS *in some of his little journeys in Truth's service, is deemed worthy a place in these Memoirs.*

SOME ACCOUNT OF THE LIFE AND PEACEFUL CLOSE OF MY DEAR FRIEND, JESSE WILLIAMS.

THE first of our acquaintance was about the time of his marriage, and before his public appearances as a minister were acknowledged. His communications at that time appeared, (and as he afterwards informed me was the case,) to be much in the cross to his own will; but continuing to feel that which he believed to be a necessity laid upon him, and fully believing that the Holy Head of the Church would not be pleased with, nor accept a divided heart or affection, he was therefore made willing to resign his own to the Divine will, and in simplicity impart his impressions in our religious meetings as they arose in his mind; and as far as I was capable of judging, his appearances were acceptable, having a general tendency to solemnize.

Soon after his marriage he removed to Evesham, in New Jersey, where, continuing his appearances, his case was considered, and he acknowledged an approved minister by Evesham Monthly and Haddonfield Quarterly Meetings; and as they were a body of lively and

judicious Friends, their unity and sympathy, I have heard him acknowledge, were strengthening to him.

After about two years, he removed, to reside in Plymouth, and so became a member of Gwynedd Monthly Meeting again.

In the fall of the year 1810, he felt a concern on his mind revived, and believed to be matured, to pay a visit to some of the meetings composing Burlington and Haddonfield Quarterly Meetings; and accordingly opened his prospect in our Monthly Meeting; and on consideration he appeared to have the unity and near sympathy of Friends, and he left at liberty to proceed; and with the concurrence of Friends, I accompanied him.

We left home the 6th of 10th month, 1810, and crossed the Delaware into New Jersey, and our kind friend Job Haines, accompanying us as a pilot towards the sea-coast, we visited the meetings of Friends generally from Barnegat to Great Egg Harbor, and on the beach we visited the few Friends, being a very sickly time there. On meeting with Friends from those parts since, and remembering the baptising seasons we had when among them, there is reason to believe it made lasting impressions on some of their minds. We travelled about 270 miles.

Through this little journey I was both instructed and edified, and could with him acknowledge we did not serve a hard Master. But by carefully endeavoring to keep near to that Divine Counsellor that cannot be removed into a corner, but carefully and attentively follow its leadings, we found our exercises and consola-

tions so adjusted as to produce the acknowledgment that "His ways are indeed ways of pleasantness," and his paths lead to peace.

And in the 12th month, 1813, with the like concurrence of Friends at home, in company with our beloved Friend, his father-in-law, Jacob Albertson, (who had been through that country before,) we paid a visit to Friends' Meetings composing Exeter and Muncy Monthly Meetings. We had twelve public meetings among Friends, and three at places where meetings are not usually held; were out twenty-three days, and travelled upwards of 350 miles. And although we knew at our setting out that our stock for such an undertaking was but small, yet, moving in the faith that with frugality, it would be sufficient, so indeed we found it; for by keeping in the littleness and child-like simplicity, and a close watch against being clothed with Saul's armor, we found a sufficiency to sustain through the journey, and returned home with thankful hearts and peaceful minds.

In the course of the exercises of our dear Friend he was frequently led to declare, and that from sensible experience, that the Christian's path is far from being a gloomy one; and that obedience to known duty was the way to happiness, and though it would restrain from lightness and vanity, yet it furnished a comforting hope and confidence in the Divine Arm of Power, for preservation in all the various allotments through which we have to pass, in our journey through time.

And as he lived so he closed, as I was, with others, a witness in his last hours. He appeared fully sensible

that his dissolution was near. His understanding was clear, though his bodily sufferings were great. The prospect of a final separation from his near and dear connections appeared a trial to the natural part, yet as he had before been endeavoring to learn of that Divine Teacher, who under great trial said: "The cup that my Father giveth me, shall I not drink it?" so he was made willing to resign all to the Divine disposal, and said he felt no gloom. After taking an affectionate farewell of his connections then present, he quietly departed this life.

Never more feelingly could I make the inquiry: "O death, where is thy sting; O grave, where is thy victory."

"Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord from henceforth; yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them."

MEMOIR

OF

JESSE WILLIAMS.

Jesse Williams was the son of Richard and Sarah Williams, of New Garden, Guilford County, North Carolina, and was born on the 29th of Second month, 1780. He was possessed naturally of a good constitution; but by sickness which he had in early life, and a strain in his breast, was rendered very tender and delicate; which made it necessary ever after, to be careful not to take cold, or over-exert himself, as the effect would be raising of blood, and a hard cough.

He was early concerned to walk circumspectly, as in the sight of an All-seeing eye, and to encourage others to do so likewise. His mother being removed by death when he was about seventeen years of age, he was particularly useful in aiding his father in rearing and helping along with his young family, himself being the oldest child.

He was a remarkable example of uprightness, sobriety and humility, yet there was an innocent cheerfulness of disposition, and sweetness of manners, which rendered him an agreeable companion for the older as well as younger class.

Between the ages of seventeen and twenty-five, he

was useful in our religious Society; sometimes accompanied ministering Friends to meetings not very remote, and at several different times, engaged with them in family visits; and by some notes preserved by himself, we have reason to believe, that from the integrity and simplicity with which he engaged in these services, it was an acceptable sacrifice. During this period he made the following memorandums:

"28th of 2d mo., 1801. I am twenty-one years of age this day; and on dwelling upon it, it has brought some serious reflections over my mind, which I hope may have a tendency to make me humble, if haply I may be favored to return suitable acknowledgments unto Him who hath done much for me in days that are past. He hath fed to the full out of His good treasury, both immediately and instrumentally, to my humiliation. Yet, at times, I have been very closely tried, and like one that had no comforter. But I have thought that it is good for us to be tried and proved, to see if we will keep the faith in low seasons, when there seems nothing to depend upon,—living by faith and not by sight.

"The good Master, in his wisdom, hath seen meet to allot unto me a considerable share of affliction of body, the greater part of my days, as yet; so much so, that it hath appeared to me at times, as if I hardly should live through my many infirmities to be twenty-one years old. Though it has been trying to nature, yet I feel no disposition to murmur, having faith to believe it has been intended for some good purpose, if I do but keep my place; but this I am very sensible I have not

done at all times since I have come to the years of religious understanding, although I have generally, I believe, kept up a pretty fair character amongst my friends and neighbors. I have at times been sensible that I was falling short of walking according to the mind and will of Truth, so that if it were not for the gracious Redeemer's manifold mercies, I should have fallen a victim to the adversary of my soul's everlasting happiness. But O, He is a tender father unto all those that will turn unto Him in sincerity of heart, and beg His forgiveness. He willeth not the death of any, but His compassionate regard is toward all, that they may return unto Him and live. This was the language uttered to a people formerly: 'Why will ye die, O house of Israel?' I think I may say as Job Scott did, viz.: 'I confess that I have no true humility, only as it is daily beat into me.' I ought to be humble, but if I go to think I am so, I may be proud even of that; so that I am what I am by the grace of God. By nature I am prone to evil, and do find daily that there is no safety off the watch. I have at times felt longing desires to be found in the way of my duty, but find it hard work to come at that of having the first nature slain and brought down, so that the second birth may have a growth. I have thought at times that it was no matter whether I was in any reputation amongst men, nor how mean or low I did appear, if only engaged in the Master's cause.

"First-day morning, 1st of 3rd mo. My heart seems still somewhat moved within me, and a concern rests upon my mind to leave something upon record to be

seen in days to come. I do not know that I feel much condemnation at this time, neither do I feel any thing to boast of—poor and needy—and many infirmities are mine. Daily bread is very desirable for the immortal part, but if I am given to discern the signs of the times, it is not a time to look for any thing very extraordinary; the pure seed being so oppressed in many hearts, gives cause of mourning to those who have their faces turned Zionward. I have thought it good for me to sink down low in my mind, and there wait in patience to know what was the mind and will of the Master concerning me. But indeed it is hard work to keep down to so low a spring as to witness the waters to rise and flow over all. But I believe there is no other way to become acquainted with that still small voice which speaks as never man spake, which, if given heed unto, will lead us out of all evil, and carry safely along through time in that straight and narrow way which leads to life and peace. Oh, merciful Father, Thou who alone knowest the secrets of all hearts, be pleased to make me as the pliable clay in the hands of the potter, do with me as thou pleasest, and enable me to distinguish what is of thy immediate begetting, from the enemy's presentations, for Thou alone art worthy of all praise, both now and forevermore, saith my soul!"

Extract from a letter to a young friend.

"23rd of 2nd mo., 1802.

"I am in hopes we shall always endeavor to keep within the bounds of moderation in all respects, and try to be good examples to others, and careful to do

nothing that will cause the blessed truth to be evilly spoken of. I have many times thought the example of such as are in good circumstances in life, and may be looked upon as the foremost in a neighborhood or settlement, was of great force among others, whether it be in doing good or evil. May we, dear friend, attend to that holy pursuit after durable treasure which will never fade away, and which will be of more value when time doth terminate, than all the vain amusements and pleasures that this world can give."

"29th of 5th mo., 1803. First-day evening. This day has been something of a trying one to me, and I thought I would pen down a little of the exercise of my mind to be seen a future day. I have been made sensible that I have received renewed favors from the bountiful hand, and also have had to believe that the enemy was very busy in sowing his tares among the precious seed, that I have greatly feared they would so cumber up the ground, that the precious seed, the seed of the kingdom—would be choked. I have said in my heart, Who is there that is tried like as I am, and what is it all for? O, the many ups and downs that my poor soul has had to pass through in the course of my little experience! I try to keep in the patience, hoping all will work together in the end for my good, having this comfort, that there is One who sleepeth not by day, nor slumbereth by night, that knows the integrity of my heart. I have been highly favored in days that are passed, so that I know I have need to be humble, and to return suitable acknowledgments unto

Him from whom all good cometh; but alas, after all my experience, I find myself to be a poor, weak, frail creature, liable to be carried away by the many storms and tempests that attend poor mortals in this vale of tears. Without a steady watch, I know there is no safety, so that if there is ever any good done by me as an instrument, it will be no merit of mine, but let all the praise be given unto the Lord, who alone is worthy.

"13th of 12th mo., 1804. I have been taking a view of my steppings along of late, and remembered the many weaknesses I have given way to, after having had some experience in a religious sense; have also called to mind the many favors and blessings which I have received from the bountiful hand of the good Shepherd of Israel, who is very compassionate and merciful to his children and people. If it were not for His mercy, I must have been lost in Egyptian darkness, but through His infinite condescension I have a comfortable hope that I am not altogether left, but that He is still near at hand for my deliverance from the power of sin and Satan; having to believe that I have been favored with some renewed visitations within these few days past, and a call to come away from everything that is sinful, and be what the Lord would have me to be. But O, the sore struggle I feel in my mind between the two spirits, each striving for the mastery; none knows the anxiety of my mind but the Lord alone. It is my sincere desire that I may be able to keep the faith and fight the good fight, and if but favored to feel the consolation at the close of time

which the Apostle Paul did, it will make up for all the trials and besetments which I have to pass through. Oh that I may 'die the death of the righteous, and my last end be like unto his.'"

About the year 1805, he left home in company with Caleb Shreeve, Mercy Shreeve and Joyce Buckman, who were in those parts on a religious visit, and came with them to Philadelphia. Whilst here, he wrote as follows to some of his friends:

"There are some very valuable Friends in this city, both old and young. I have been at several meetings since I have been here, and some of them the largest I ever attended; and the solidity that appeared in many of their countenances, even amongst the young people, was instructive to my mind. It was beautiful to behold the comely appearance that many of them made.

"The more I see, the more I admire the beauty of holiness. Oh, the solid satisfaction which the children of our heavenly Father at times enjoy. I have said in my heart, when I have felt a little of the incomes of His love, that it was enough to make up for all the toils and trials that we are beset with in our journey through time."

After residing in the city for a short time, he inclined to remain in this part of the country, provided he could get introduced into some business. His health being delicate, he thought best to qualify himself for a teacher; and for this purpose he entered as a scholar, the boarding school at Westtown. He continued here eighteen months—six of which he was a scholar, and the remaining time assisted in the school, and kept the accounts

for the Superintendent. Early after entering this school, he was taken ill of pleurisy, and reduced very low, apparently almost to death's door; yet his mind was composed, being satisfied with his movements as related to his leaving home and coming to that place; he felt a secret confirming evidence, that it was by best direction, and that all would work together for good.

Although his mind was thus prepared, he passed through many proving, buffeting seasons, after coming to these parts, and particularly during the time spent at Westtown. In a letter to a friend he expressed himself thus: "Notwithstanding the afflictive dispensation through which I have had to pass within these few months, hath caused deep exercise of mind, and have felt so much reduced at times, I have been ready to sink under discouragement; yet I now feel thankful that I was favored to keep the faith; and am persuaded I am not forsaken;" and he further adds, "Oh how precious it is to feel the sweet incomes of Divine love! How it revives the drooping spirits, and causes the soul to rejoice, after passing through the winter season, to experience the return of spring, and to hear the voice of the turtle in the land."

Letter to his parents, dated

"Philadelphia, 4th mo. 26th, 1806.

"Dear Father and Mother:—In the bonds of endeared affection do I salute you at this time, and may inform you that I have been anxiously looking for a letter from you. I went to Westtown Boarding School the first of last month, with a prospect of staying there six months,

in order to better qualify myself for a teacher. After I had been there about two weeks, I was taken sick, which confined me two weeks to my chamber. I may just mention for your satisfaction, that I was favored during my illness, to feel in a good degree resigned to the will of the Great Master, although at times was ready to think I would not be raised again. Yet through Divine favor, I am so far recovered as to be able to attend the Yearly Meeting of Friends in this city, which has been sitting by adjournments for more than a week. We have had the acceptable company of several worthy Friends from a distance;—Elizabeth Coggshall, and others. The meeting is very large, and many weighty subjects have come before it; and through the several sittings, I may say with gratitude of heart, that the Great Head of the church hath been near for our help, and a sweet covering has been, at times, spread over the meeting. As to myself, I have nothing to boast of, but feel myself to be a poor dependent being, at times reduced to a state of suffering, and ready to cry, "My leanness, my leanness, woe unto me!" then again am favored to feel a little with my friends, and to partake with them in the blessing which the good Master is pleased to shower down upon his devoted children. I have endeavored to keep the faith, and not give out, knowing I have a good Master to serve, who will not require anything more than He will enable to perform. Although He may see meet to prove as to an hair's breadth, yet He will not forsake those who put their trust in Him. I am renewedly confirmed in the belief, that there is no cause for any

to be discouraged, who have given up to serve Him who made a way for the children of Israel, where there seemed to be no way.

"I expect to return to Westtown directly after the Yearly Meeting closes,—am well satisfied with being there, believing it is the right place for me at present. I have been humbled, under a sense of the great importance of educating children in the right way. There has been much said in this meeting, in regard to the preservation of families. Heads of families are advised to collect their children together into stillness, and read the Scriptures to them. I see more and more the beauty there is in this practice, however light some may make of it, and say that it is nothing but a form; yet, I believe, that all who are endeavoring to live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world, will find a necessity often to retire into stillness.

"I had no prospect of writing so much on these weighty subjects, but as it arose without searching, I have penned it."

Letter to Caleb Williams.

"PHILADELPHIA, 4th mo. 21st, 1806.

"Dear Cousin:—I make use of the present opportunity of sending a few lines to thee—and may inform thee, that I left New Garden in North Carolina, the 3rd of Eleventh month last, and joined company with some travelling Friends from these parts, who were at our Yearly Meeting last fall. I travelled with them near three months; we visited a large number of meetings, and I may say I had much satisfaction in being

with those Friends on their religious visit. We arrived in this city on the 18th of Second month. I remained here four or five weeks to good satisfaction—met with a very kind reception among my friends of this city. From here I went to Westtown Boarding School, about twenty miles from Philadelphia, and engaged in the school for six months, with the view of better qualifying myself for a school-master for North Carolina. The number of scholars in the school at present is about two hundred—one hundred of each sex.

"I came to this city day before yesterday, in order to attend the Yearly Meeting, and expect to return to the school when the meeting closes.

"I may say with gratitude of heart, that I have felt the love of our heavenly Father, to be round about me in my late illness, which is more desirable in such a time, than all the world besides. I sincerely desire that thou, my dear cousin, with myself, may endeavor more and more to live in the fear of the Lord, and to walk agreeably to His most holy direction; so that when the time comes when we must bid a final farewell to all these lower enjoyments, we may have a comfortable hope of entering into the mansions of eternal rest. Oh, I thought in the time of my sickness, that it was well worth while for all, to endeavor to live the life of the righteous, so that our latter end may be like unto his.

"With a salutation of love I conclude, and remain thy most affectionate friend and cousin,

JESSE WILLIAMS, JR."

From memorandums kept during J. W.'s tarriance at Westtown, we extract the following:

"5th mo. 8th, 1806. At meeting with my teachers and schoolmates: not so lively as some I have attended since my lot has been cast in this place; yet I endeavored to keep up the warfare against the many presentations of the enemy of man's happiness, and to endure the portion of suffering allotted me for my purification. I have had some close trials of late, but may say with gratitude of heart, that my heavenly Father has been near for my help, through all the afflictive dispensations which He hath seen meet to dispense, which has made hard things easy: sometimes filling my heart with his Divine love.

"9th. I had a few words to communicate to the scholars in the time of silence in the evening, a little before we retired to rest,—endeavoring to convince them of the importance of remembering their Creator in the days of their youth; and to bear in mind that all our thoughts, words and actions, are before the view of his all penetrating eye, who sees and knoweth all things. I had to refer to that solemn period of time, when the grasshopper would be a burden, and desire fail, because man goeth to his long home. If we transgressed, even in things that we might look upon as small matters when in a state of health, in that awful time, they would be a burden. But if we were careful to live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world, it would be a time of joy and rejoicing to us."

10th. After recording that he had not been suffi-

ciently watchful, and speaking in a slighting manner of a Friend, which made him uneasy in mind, J. W. adds, "I am renewedly convinced that there is no safety except on the watch-tower, let the attainments be ever so great. I feel the need of taking heed to the admonition of our gracious Redeemer; 'Be ye wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.' 'The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.'

"11th. At meeting in the afternoon, I felt constrained to speak a few words, to this effect: that in times of prosperity we should not forget adversity, nor in time of health be too careless, and slide along in an easy channel; but endeavor to serve the Lord, so that when trials come, we may have something as an anchor to lean upon.

"It was brought to my remembrance the expressions of a beloved Friend a short time before her decease on this wise: 'O, how much more acceptable would it be unto the Great Master, if people would be thoughtful while they are favored with health, than to put it off till such a time as this, when it is the nature of all mankind to cry out for help—but there can be little done now.'"

Letter to Hannah Reeve.

"Westtown, 5th mo. 15th, 1806.

"Dear Friend:—Having an opportunity of conveying a few lines to thee, I felt a willingness to embrace it, feeling a degree of that love to flow towards thee at this time, which I felt when thou wast in my native land a few years ago.

"I left my father's house in the Eleventh month last, and joined in company with some Friends from these parts who were paying a religious visit there; with whom I travelled near three months, [in the prosecution of their visit to the meetings in Carolina and Virginia,] until our arrival at Philadelphia. I had not a prospect of coming to Westtown when I left home, but only to make some little stay in the city, having the concurrence of my friends at home so to do. But soon after I came to the city, I believed it right for me to come here for a time.

"Perhaps thou mayest have forgotten me by this time, but if thou wilt recollect the little lad that went with thee and thy companion from Sandy Spring meeting to Hopewell, then thou wilt remember me. I was then in a poor state of health, and had but little prospect of ever seeing this part of the world, but through infinite mercy, I have been spared from time to time —may it tend to the praise of His great name, who is worthy of all praise, adoration and renown, for His condescending goodness to the workmanship of His hands. I have heard of thy afflictions, beloved friend, which has created a near sympathy in my mind for thee. Although we had but a short acquaintance, yet the love and regard I felt for thee in that brief space, will never be erased from my mind. I often feel for the aged and infirm, and wish to render them all the consolation I am capable of—cheering the drooping spirit, and recommending to Him who is the alone Comforter, when all other helps shall fail. I have a lively hope that the good Master will be near unto

thee now in thy advanced age, and speak comfortably unto thee. He that has been with thee in six troubles will not forsake in the seventh.

"Having written a few lines in the simplicity, as a token of remembrance, I most affectionately salute thee in a degree of that love which spreadeth over sea and land.

JESSE WILLIAMS."

"5th mo. 22d. In the evening when the scholars were collected, in the interval of silence before retiring to bed, I felt constrained to recommend to them, to turn their minds towards their great Creator when they retired to rest, that being the best preparation for quiet repose.

"30th. I have spent this day in a good degree of quietude. In the evening when the scholars were about to retire to the chamber, and I had the candle in my hand to light them up, I felt constrained to speak a few words to them, which I thought arose with life and power. Being in rather an unsettled state, and indulging in levity, I informed them that it was now a time of prosperity with them; but that the time might come, when they would have need of something more to lean upon than a light and airy disposition. The expressions of the wise king were brought to my remembrance: 'He that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.' I labored with them to live consistently with the Divine will, and not slight the day of His gracious visitation. It felt very solemn to my mind,

to have to deliver this to my schoolmates, but I dared not do otherwise. My mind was humbled under a fresh sense of the mighty power of the Most High.

"6th mo. 29th. First-day. In the morning meeting, soon after taking my seat, I felt a weighty covering to spread over my mind, under which I abode in the stillness for a time, and then felt constrained to appear in solemn supplication to the Most High, that He would be pleased to help us with a little of His saving help. It seemed a solemn time to most present. Soon after my appearance, Thomas Scattergood arose, quoting the passage, 'Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings, Thou hast perfected praise;' alluding to the precious covering that was spread over the meeting, and that he felt the inviting language of the Lord to His people, to 'Forsake the evil of their ways;' from which he was enlarged in gospel communication. T. S. also spoke in the afternoon meeting, and again in evening collection, with good authority. May we number the blessings of this day! for assuredly we have been favored to receive, as it were, direct from heaven."

In a letter to his parents, dated 1st mo. 4th, 1807, he says: "I have often turned my attention towards the land of my nativity, since I left there twelve months ago, and have sometimes felt anxious desires to enjoy the company of my dear friends and relations there, but have been ready to conclude of latter times, that I shall not see New-Garden very soon; for, to be plain, I must tell you I have believed it would be right for me to settle myself in these parts for a time; and

if way should open with clearness, it is not unlikely that I shall write home for my certificate before long, in order to have my right of membership conveyed to some meeting not very far from this. I hope you will cheerfully give me up, if I should make such a request, as I have believed it was something more than my own contrivance that I came here.

"It has been humbling to my mind, when I have looked back at my first movements, in order to come to this land; and since I have been here, to feel the sweet presence of the Divine Master at times, and the incomes of His love. O, He hath done much for me, and made a way where there appeared to be no way: and if He be pleased to continue with me, and point out the way in which I should go, it will make hard things easy, and sweeten every bitter cup; and I have faith to believe I shall not be forsaken, if I do but let obedience keep pace with knowledge, which, that I may, is the fervent desire of my spirit.

"Do not be uneasy about me, for I have good counsellors here who, I believe, will give me such advice from time to time, as they think will be for my good."

"1st mo. 29th. At meeting felt poor and needy, but was not left without faith and strength to maintain the warfare.

"2d mo. 5th. John Baldwin, one of our teachers, bore a lively testimony in our meeting to-day; with the best authority; spoke to the states and conditions of some present, I believe. O, that it may have the desired effect on each one of our minds. I have felt of

late, like a poor disconsolate being, under a sense of my own nothingness—am sometimes ready to sink under discouragement, then again am a little revived, in a belief that I am still under the notice of Him who certainly will do right. I am surrounded with mountains of difficulty, but will put my trust in that Arm of Almighty power, which has ever made a way for me in times of difficulty—hath cast up a way where there appeared to be no way; so that I can adopt the language, 'Hitherto hath He helped me.' O, that I may walk worthy of a continuance of Divine regard,—that I may keep the faith in this time, compared to the winter season, and not take my flight,—but stand firm, and wait in the patience for the return of spring,—that joyful time when all is harmony and love.

"First-day, the 8th. A comfortable day to me—attended meeting to good satisfaction. Soon after I took my seat, my mind was humbled, and was made to partake a little of that living fountain which quickeneth the soul, and makes it alive unto God. Under a sense of the renewed favor, I bowed in humble prostration before the throne of Grace, and made intercession to the Father of mercies, that He would be pleased to deal with his people agreeably to their several needs, that we might be enabled to run the race that is set before us with alacrity of heart, and at the conclusion thereof be deemed worthy an admittance into His glorious kingdom, there to sing praises to His great and excellent name for evermore.

"In the afternoon I enjoyed sweet peace. Towards evening, in conversation with dear M. Sharpless, my

mind was unexpectedly humbled under a sense of the present day's favor. This little opportunity which I had with my beloved friend, afforded me solid satisfaction. I esteemed it a favor to feel my spirit thus tendered and contrited, being made sensible of my own nothingness, and of the all-sufficiency of Him who had once more condescended to give me to feel of the sweet incomes of that love which maketh glad the whole heritage of God.

"3rd mo. 19th. At meeting I felt much humbled in my mind on several accounts—had my state and condition spoken to by dear J. B., in a very lively manner. Was convinced I had not been watchful enough over the disposition of my own mind of latter time, and therefore had sustained loss in the best sense. Under these considerations, I was led to enter into covenant with the great Master, that if He would be pleased to blot out my sins and transgressions from His book of remembrance, and receive me again into favor, then I would serve Him in the way of His requiring. In the afternoon, my mind was favored to enjoy a quiet calm.

"24th. Felt myself to be a poor infirm being—almost ready to conclude it would not be very long before my poor earthly tabernacle would be dissolved; which has occasioned serious reflections. Am I prepared to meet the Bridegroom of souls? Have I done my day's work, and am I in readiness to appear before the tribunal of Divine justice, there to give an account of the deeds done in the body!"

"4th mo. 7th. Felt strong desires this day that I

might be more and more in love with retirement, being convinced that it is good for the poor tossed mind to settle down into stillness; was favored to see the beauty and sweetness of dwelling in the quiet habitation.

"29th. Was closely tried in the morning meeting, and much discouraged till near the conclusion, when I remembered the expression of the dear Master to Simon, 'I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not.' Felt better in the afternoon.

"5th mo. 10th. First-day. A favored meeting to-day; had the company of Roger Dicks, who spoke lively.

"14th. Attended Caln Quarterly Meeting. A time of renewed visitation to many minds: a worthy Friend spoke in a very alarming manner, being baptized for the lukewarm, and commissioned to preach the gospel for the good of souls. It was a time of leanness and poverty with myself, although not insensible of a renewed visitation to those assembled.

"31st. We had the acceptable company of James and John Davis with us, at our meeting to-day. They were returning to their homes in New England, having been on a religious visit to the State of Ohio. I was much pleased with these Friends, and had good unity with their communications. Poverty seemed to be my lot the greater part of the day, although we had good Friends with us. In the evening was a little tendered and refreshed in company with my friends, and received a word of encouragement from dear James Davis: had cause to believe he was favored to feel my state and

condition. After this favored sitting in the family, I retired to rest in a humble frame of mind.

"6th mo. 1st. Surrounded by many discouragements—part of the day not capable of attending to business, my mind being under deep exercise—would have been glad to be alone, where I might have wept in secret. The language of my heart was, 'A Saviour, or I die; a Redeemer, or I perish forever.'

"5th. Attended Goshen Monthly Meeting; not lively, but was enabled to labor a little with my friends, though in much weakness. I thought it a time of poverty, but received instruction from some lively remarks which were dropped by some Friends.

"6th. Was much humbled this morning; in company with the teachers, had a solid opportunity with the scholars—a time not soon, if ever, to be forgotten by me. May the weighty and solid remarks which were dropped at this season, be as a 'nail fastened in a sure place;' and I trust it will be so in some measure. After this favored opportunity, I enjoyed a good degree of quietude the remaining part of the day."

On the 11th, being on a visit to some friends in Burlington, he says: "Had a favored sitting at George Dillwyn's in the evening, in company with several other Friends. Dear George spoke lively in testimony and supplication; may I ever bear in mind his weighty remarks. It was indeed a renewed favor to my poor soul, having been much exercised this afternoon, but was encouraged by this favored sitting to endeavor to keep the faith.

"15th. Attended in Philadelphia the funeral of Mary, the only daughter of Nathan Smith; a young woman who left Westtown about three weeks ago. A large concourse of people were collected, and at the grave Arthur Howell spoke in a solemn manner. My mind is humbled this evening, and may I ever bear in mind this day, and not forget what I have seen and heard!

"21st. First-day. Meeting not lively in the forepart, but more so afterwards; I spoke a few words, and felt quiet after meeting, for a time; then was assailed by workings of the enemy, who endeavored to make me ashamed of the cross of Christ; but I was enabled to maintain the warfare, and did not let go my hold; for which I felt the reward of peace in the evening.

"22nd. In the evening, after I retired to rest, was much humbled under a sense of the awfulness of eternity. Had living desires raised in my mind, that I might be purified from every defilement of flesh and spirit, so that at the conclusion of time I might be deemed worthy to join the Heavenly host in anthems of praise to Him who liveth forever. Be pleased O, righteous Father, to keep me as in the hollow of thy holy hand, and not suffer thy dependent child to go astray. Thou knowest what I stand in need of before I ask thee; therefore deal with me as seemeth good in thy sight.

"7th mo. 23rd. At meeting rather in an unsettled state; was not careful to prepare my mind for meeting during the morning. In the evening, was humbled under a sense of my own imperfections, and desires were raised that I might be preserved.

"28th. Attended the Monthly Meeting for the Northern District in Philadelphia, and produced my certificate to that meeting, which was read and accepted.

"8th mo. 7th. I enjoyed a good degree of quietude through the course of this day, and in the evening felt the sweet incomes of Divine love, which revived my drooping spirits. Was ready to say in secret, 'It is enough, O Lord, to compensate for all my sufferings, to be made sensible that thou art pleased to forgive, and to remember thy dependent children, who are convinced of their own nothingness, and of Thy superior excellence.' O, the unity and sweetness that was felt this evening, in sitting with my friends in stillness! Dear J. B. spoke the language of encouragement, which was as a cordial to my exercised mind.

"13th. Dear Samuel Smith was lively in his public testimony. May I ever bear in mind the good advice received at this meeting, and improve upon it. In the evening I had a religious opportunity with the girls, when they were collected for bed; for which I felt the reward of peace for my labors amongst these dear children.

"14th. In a comfortable frame of mind, I took leave of my dear friends at Westtown this morning; having been at this place more than eighteen months, I hope to profit; but now thought proper to settle myself elsewhere; went to Philadelphia in the stage, and lodged at Edward Wilson's: enjoyed a good degree of quietude this day.

"15th. I went to Joshua Paxson's, at Plymouth,

having a prospect of engaging in a school in the neighborhood. Felt quiet this evening, which I thought was a confirmation of the propriety of my settling in this place. Having now entered into a new sphere, I felt fervent desires that I might be preserved in the right way.

"17th. Was at H. Foulk's school in the afternoon; then returned to J. P.'s. Felt serious this evening and was favored to feel a little of the sweet incomes of the Father's love, which had a tendency to settle my mind in the quiet.

"20th. Attended Plymouth meeting, and spent the afternoon at J. A.'s.

"25th. Attended Gwynedd Monthly Meeting for the first time. A serious opportunity this was to me. In viewing the state of things in this meeting, my mind was much humbled. The meeting ended pretty well, and I enjoyed quietude the remaining part of the day.

"10th mo. 5th. I commenced teaching a school at Plymouth meeting-house this day."

To his parents he wrote 10th mo. 9th, 1807. "Last Third-day was a week, I produced my certificate to Gwynedd Monthly Meeting, conveying my right of membership from the Northern District in Philadelphia, to this meeting. At the same time laid my intentions of marriage with Hannah Albertson before that meeting. Since then I have enjoyed a quiet mind, and feel well satisfied that I have proceeded thus far in the solemn engagement.

"11th mo. 12th, 1807. This day I entered into

the marriage covenant with Hannah, the daughter of Jacob and Mary Albertson, of Plymouth, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Spent the day agreeably under a sense of Divine favor. Had the company of several valuable Friends from Philadelphia, with us at meeting, and several of them to dine—of whom Thomas Scattergood was one, who spoke the language of encouragement to my companion and self. Some of the particular heads of his communication were as follows: 'Be content with such things as ye have. It is better to trust in the Lord, than to put confidence in man, for He hath said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.' He spoke of Jacob of old, who was raised from a low estate to affluence, and had to say, 'With my staff I passed over this Jordan, and now I am become two bands.' He encouraged to be faithful in the little, saying, 'Thou knowest not what that little may grow to.' At the house, after dinner, he had a religious opportunity; spoke of his experience in his journey through time to the present day, which was humbling and instructive. He alluded to the man who had the withered hand, saying, 'This poor man was commanded to stand forth in the midst of the people, and show himself, that he might be made whole.'"

To his father and mother.

"PLYMOUTH, 11th mo. 30th, 1807.

"I received your very acceptable letter yesterday, which was dated the third of this month, and was pleased to hear you received mine of last month.

"I have been closely engaged in my school to-day,

and feel weary, but must try to write something to you this evening, and let you know how I have fared since I last wrote. I have enjoyed my health pretty well of latter time, and also been favored with a quiet mind, and feel well satisfied that I have come to this place to settle for a time. On the 12th of this month, we entered into the marriage covenant, which proved a day of Divine favor to us; more so than I have words to express, so that I was ready to say in the secret of my heart, 'It is enough.' We had the company of several valuable Friends from Philadelphia; among whom were Thomas Scattergood and daughter Rebecca, Joseph Scattergood and wife, and Caleb Shreeve and Edward Wilson, and their wives, &c. T. Scattergood was favored to impart the language of encouragement to us in a particular manner, both at meeting and afterwards at the house. You would have enjoyed being here, but seeing it was not convenient, I am content."

After their marriage J. W. continued employed in the school at Plymouth during the winter; and in the spring following, an opening presented for them to settle at Evesham, in New Jersey, where they resided for about two years, he being most of that time employed in teaching school there, his wife also assisting him therein. This was a comfortable home to them; they found agreeable society, which compensated for the loss of connections left behind. Their continuance at this place was shorter than they or their friends there had anticipated; but an opening occurred for them to return to Plymouth, and settle more permanently, by

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purchasing a house and lot near the meeting-house, which they embraced, and removed there in the spring of 1810, and continued to reside there until the time of their decease. They opened a boarding and day school, which was continued during the remainder of his life.

Having passed through many proving baptisms, whereby a preparation was wrought for the solemn work of the ministry, he was engaged to speak a few words in that line from time to time, and by faithfulness to the little that was committed, he grew in his gift and became an acceptable minister of the gospel, being acknowledged as such during their residence in New Jersey, by Evesham Monthly and Haddonfield Quarterly Meeting of Ministers and Elders.

During their tarriance at Evesham, in the fall of 1809, he and his brother-in-law, Josiah Albertson, accompanied Nathan Hunt and his son to North Carolina, (Nathan having been in these parts on a religious visit); and spent some time in visiting his father's family, and relations and friends thereaway. At several of the meetings which he attended in his native land, also in many of the families which he visited, it appears from some short notes kept by him, that he was engaged in the exercise of his gift in the ministry, and also to make some remarks in the Yearly Meeting, which he attended, on some of the subjects that came before it. On one occasion, he reminded some of the solemn covenants they had entered into in the time of affliction; and gave a word of encouragement to the younger class, to follow their Divine Leader in the

way of his requirings. At the concluding sitting, after the minutes of the several sittings were read, the shutters between men and women Friends were opened, and after some lively communications by Nathan Hunt and others, the meeting solemnly concluded.

In the 10th mo. 1810, with the unity and concurrence of his Monthly Meeting, he paid a visit to some of the meetings in the limits of Haddonfield and Burlington quarters, in New Jersey; some account of which follows:

"Seventh-day, 10th mo. 6th, 1810. I left home in order to pay a religious visit to some meetings, principally along the sea-coast in New Jersey, having H. F. as a companion.

"First-day, the 7th. Attended Westfield Meeting; felt poor and empty in the forepart, but was favored with the Master's help afterwards. Was renewedly confirmed in the belief, that it is possible for man to have a foretaste of the joys which are to come, while in mutability. I had to encourage Friends to be in love with retirement when at home, &c. Went to Thomas Lippincott's to dine; then to Evesham, and attended the funeral of Agnes, the wife of William Haines, which was a solemn season—a large concourse of people at the grave. After the burial, we went home with William Haines, where we lodged. We endeavored to comfort him respecting the loss of his wife, my companion having considerable to say to him and his son, in a very consoling manner, and I had a little to offer also.

Peace was the covering of our minds, which led us to believe we were in our right places.

"8th. Attended Haddonfield Monthly Meeting, which we thought was favored in the fore part, but not so lively in the latter. We dined at Thomas Redman's, and in the evening went back to Evesham, and lodged at Job Haines'.

"Third-day, 9th. Set off for Little Egg Harbor, having J. H. for pilot. In the evening got to the house of David Maps and wife, who are colored people, but both of them members of our Society, where we were kindly entertained.

"10th. Rode about sixteen miles to Thomas Ballinger's, where we arrived about 12 o'clock, and spent the remainder of the day. In the afternoon I felt much shut up as to conversation, being made sensible of the great and weighty service which I was engaged in, which was truly humbling to my mind; but was favored to keep much in the quiet.

"11th. Went three miles to Little Egg Harbor Monthly Meeting; had a lively opening in the fore part, and stood up and endeavored to express what was on my mind, but did not get through quite to my satisfaction; the cause of which I had to leave. I settled down in the quiet afterwards, and thought the meeting closed under a solemn covering. Dined at Simeon Haines', near the meeting-house, and rode thirteen miles to John Collins', at Barnegat, and lodged.

"12th. Attended an appointed meeting at Barnegat, which was a favored season. I had considerable to say to the people by way of encouragement, &c. There

were several present who were not members, who sat in a quiet becoming manner throughout the meeting. I felt the sweet reward of peace at the conclusion, under a sense of Divine favor. After meeting, at John Collins' we had a religious opportunity, to our mutual satisfaction, and then rode seven miles to S. Gray's, near the bay, to spend the night.

"13th. In company with S. Gray and his son, we went across the bay in a boat, three miles to the sea-shore, or beach. Took a survey of the great ocean, went along the seaside a mile or more, and it was really awful to behold the swelling and foaming of the great deep. We went to Job Inman's, a Friend, who lives on the beach, and after dinner had a religious opportunity with him and his family to satisfaction. Then took leave of this family, and calling to see two other families on the beach, we returned to our boat and had a pleasant sail across the bay to S. Gray's, where we lodged again.

"14th. First-day. Went ten miles and attended Little Egg Harbor meeting, which was large for that place, there being a number there who are not members of our Society. When I first took my seat I felt much reduced under a sense of my own nothingness and inability to do any good thing; and in this state I appeared in solemn supplication; afterwards felt a little renewal of strength, and stood up and had considerable to say to the people to the peace of my own mind, and the meeting concluded under a solemn covering. Dined at James Willits' near the meeting-house, and had a little time

of solemn retirement to our mutual satisfaction ; then went three miles to Jeremiah Willits' to lodge.

"15th. We left the settlement of Little Egg Harbor, and set off for Great Egg Harbor, where we arrived in the evening, and lodged at the house of Samuel Leeds, near the upper meeting.

"16th. Went twelve miles to Daniel Leeds', near the lower meeting ; spent the afternoon and lodged there. In the evening came Ann Edwards and Robert French, from Chester Monthly Meeting, and Maria Milner and Lydia Bullock, from Chesterfield Monthly Meeting, who were in these parts on a religious visit, they being united together in the visit.

"17th. We had a religious opportunity in D. L.'s family in the morning ; then to Great Egg Harbor meeting which was to a good degree of satisfaction. There was considerable said in the meeting, I hope, to some profit; M. Milner and her companions being present. After meeting we went to Samuel Smith's, had a sitting in his family, and in the afternoon went to Samuel Leeds', ten miles, where we had stopped before, staid over night, and during the evening had a time of religious retirement, and some lively remarks from M. Milner ; and also some of the rest of us had a little to offer.

"18th. Attended the upper meeting in Galoway township, in which I was silent. M. M. and A. Edwards had considerable to say. After meeting I went with Samuel Leeds, Jr., to dine, while the rest of our company went back to his father's ; where, after dinner, I joined them, and we had a parting opportunity with

our before mentioned friends. Dear A. Edwards appeared in solemn supplication for Divine preservation, which had a humbling effect upon our minds. I thought I was made sensible of the overshadowing of the Divine wing. In the evening my two companions and self, went back to S. Leeds, Jr.'s, and had a comfortable sitting with him and his wife, and returned to his father's and lodged.

"19th. Feeling clear of these parts, we set off early in the morning, and travelled thirty-six miles to Abner Watson's, where we staid over night, and attended an appointed meeting at Hopewell Meeting-house the next day, which was attended by a considerable number who are not in membership with Friends, and proved to be a favored meeting; and in the evening, we arrived at Job Haines', at Evesham.

"21st. Had a time of solid retirement with this family to satisfaction. My mind was humbled and tendered under a sense of past favors, and was also led to sympathise with some tried states, and had to speak a word of encouragement. Went to Evesham meeting, which was an excercising time in the fore part, but I was favored in the latter part with Best help, and had considerable to say to the people in a close, searching manner, and the meeting concluded under a solemn covering. I felt the sweet reward of peace, and humble thankfulness of heart to the Father of mercies for his manifold favors.

"Second-day, 10th mo. 22d. Set out this morning for home, parting on the way with my dear companion, who had been with me a true helper, we having been

much united together in our little journey. Arrived safely at my own home at Plymouth, and found my family well, and was made thankful for their preservation as well as my own."

In the Sixth month, 1811, he accompanied Ann Jessup and her companions, Friends from Carolina, who were on a religious visit to these parts, to a few meetings, chiefly in Chester County. After being at the Valley Meeting, Radnor Monthly Meeting, and one appointed at Willistown, they were on the 16th, at Westtown School. "At 10 o'clock, went to their meeting, where there were near 200 scholars, in beautiful order. Dear Ann had considerable to say to them, I hope, to profit. At 4 o'clock in the afternoon, we all attended their meeting again, in which Ann appeared in solemn supplication. My mind was deeply exercised, and with a small opening I stood up, and as I endeavored to keep in the simplicity, under a humbling sense of my own nothingness, way was made for me, to the relief of my own mind: a solemn covering spread over the meeting.

"17th. Attended an appointed meeting at Birmingham; an exercising time in the fore part, but concluded under a solemn covering. In the afternoon, to an appointed meeting in a school-house near West Chester; the house crowded with people. Considerable was said to them, I hope, to some profit; but I could not feel so free an entrance into their minds, in general, as on some previous occasions. Went to Nathan Cope's to lodge, and were entertained kindly.

"18th. To an appointed meeting at Bradford. There being a funeral just before meeting, there was a large collection of people. Ann, was favored to speak in a very lively manner, and way was made for me to the relief of my own mind. It was a humbling season—a time of renewed favor.

"19th. Attended Downingtown Meeting, which was a satisfactory time, and the meeting closed under a sense of Divine goodness. After this meeting at Downingtown, I took leave of our dear Friends with whom I had been travelling for a few days in near unity, and set off for home: felt peace of mind, which was a sufficient reward."

To his brother Richard Williams.

"Plymouth, 10th mo. 12th, 1811.

"Dear Brother:—I received thine of 9th mo. 26th, and was glad to hear of thy safe arrival. No doubt, thou esteemed it a favor. It was humbling to us all, to find thou hadst been so closely tried in thy passage by sea to Carolina, [having encountered a storm], yet were comforted in believing thy mind had been stayed on Him who is able to preserve all those who put their trust in Him. May we endeavor to walk worthy of His notice for the future, and not be ashamed to acknowledge before the world, that we love and fear the Master."

"Seventh-day, 5th mo. 30th, 1812. I left home in company with my father-in-law, J. Albertson, an Elder, in order to perform a religious visit to the

meetings of Friends in the compass of Bucks Quarter. Rode twelve miles and lodged at Alexander Foreman's; felt very poor this afternoon under a sense of my manifold infirmities, was renewedly confirmed that there was great need for me to be more watchful over the disposition of my own mind: was unwell through the night, and got but little rest.

"First-day morning. Was favored to feel a little quiet; although weak in body and mind. Had a few minutes of solid retirement in this family, wherein I had a little to offer by way of encouragement to faithfulness, which tended to the peace of my own mind; and about eight o'clock, set off for Plumstead meeting, a distance of ten miles. I felt much revived in sitting in this meeting, and had considerable to say by way of encouragement to the sincere hearted, and admonition to those who had not given up to come under the government of the Prince of Peace. Felt very much reduced in my bodily powers at the close of the meeting, but was favored to enjoy sweet peace of mind. After meeting, I met with Joshua Sharpless and wife, not knowing they were in the meeting till after it closed; went in company with them to Stephen Wilson's, and dined.

"6th mo. 1st. To Buckingham Monthly Meeting. This was an exercising time throughout the whole sitting. In the meeting for worship, I found it hard work to get at the waters of life, but after a time was favored to feel a little strength, and had to deal in a close manner with such as are depending on a name to religion, and wanting the substance. After saying con-

siderable to the careless and indifferent professors, I felt a stream of love to flow towards the young people present, and was favored to counsel and invite them to give in their names to serve the Lord in the way of His requirings, laying aside every weight and burden, and the sin that doth so easily beset. Felt peace of mind in having discharged what I believed was required of me in this meeting. After men and women separated, the meeting for business was a very tedious one, being between three and four o'clock before meeting closed. Returned to B. G.'s, in company with Benj. White and wife, and spent the afternoon pleasantly; and in the evening, to Jonathan Roberts' to lodge.

"2nd. Visited J. Pickering, who lives near to J. R.'s, and had a comfortable sitting with him and his family, being led into near sympathy with them, in particular with a son, a tender young man in the thirty-fifth year of his age, who had lost his eye-sight about nine years before, and was also afflicted in other ways. I left them with a peaceful mind, and went to Solebury Monthly Meeting. After sitting a considerable time, I stood up and endeavored to attend to a little opening, but did not get along quite to my satisfaction. There were some other appearances in the line of the ministry, but I could not feel that 'Truth reigned over all,' at this season; felt very poor and stripped at the close of the meeting for worship, which I trust had a tendency to humble me. In the meeting for business, I felt a little revived, and had a few remarks to make which tended to the peace of my own mind. After meeting went to Oliver Paxson's, where we spent the

remainder of the day, and staid over night. I felt much reduced all this afternoon, and had very little comfort or satisfaction in the company of my beloved Friends, but was favored not to cast away all hope. J. Sharpless and wife, were here, and dear old Oliver and Joshua were lively, and could converse pleasantly together, and I must acknowledge their conversation was instructive, but thought they were not sensible of my deep exercise.

"3rd. Felt very desirous this morning, that I might be preserved in the way which would be well pleasing in the Divine sight, and experience the strong will of the creature brought down as in the dust. Accompanied by O. P. and J. S. and wife, we went to Wrightstown Monthly Meeting, which proved a baptizing season; had a comfortable time in the meeting for worship; the language of encouragement, flowed freely to the humble hearted ones. My mind was renewedly strengthened at this season, and I believe many that were present were made sensible of the overshadowing of the heavenly Father's love. Men and women Friends then separated and proceeded to business. This was also a time of exercise to me, and my fellow travellers also had considerable to say to men Friends, encouraging to faithfulness in their several allotments. For my part, I had more to say than is common for me, in Meetings for Discipline. I had to believe when meeting concluded, this had been a memorable day to many of us that were present. Felt a quiet mind on leaving this place, which is all I craved.

"4th. Called this morning to see William Blakey

and family; found the dear old man in a poor state of health, but in a very pleasant sweet frame of mind. It was truly comfortable to feel the canopy of Divine love to be round about the bedside of this our valuable Friend. Then to Middletown Monthly Meeting, which I believe, was a time of favor throughout the whole meeting. Was deeply humbled soon after I took my seat, and was made willing to supplicate the Throne of Grace for a renewal of strength, which I had cause to believe was granted, my way being made easy, and I was favored to labor with the strength received, to the solid peace and satisfaction of my own mind. I was renewedly confirmed in the belief that our heavenly Father's love was spread over us at this season, for the encouragement of the heavy-hearted and the mourners in Zion. After meeting, we went to S. G.'s to dine, who was affectionately kind to us poor travellers; indeed I have cause to be thankful for the kind attention of our beloved Friends everywhere since we have been in this quarter, and hope I am sensible of the need there is for me to keep down in the valley of humiliation, so that I may be favored to see with clearness what to do, and what to leave undone. May this be my situation, O righteous Father! is the secret petition of my spirit this morning.

"5th. Had a comfortable sitting with several of my elder brethren and sisters at S. G.'s a little before starting to meeting. I felt them near to my best life, and expressed a few words which I believe were sensibly felt to proceed from the Fountain of love, so that our spirits were tendered, and united together in the

bond of peace. Then in company with my beloved Friends, went five miles to Falls Monthly Meeting. Soon after taking my seat therein, my mind was brought under deep exercise, and I believed it to be my place to endeavor to impress on the minds of those present the great importance of the act of coming together to perform Divine worship, and felt peace of mind at the conclusion.

"6th. To an appointed meeting at Makefield meeting-house, which was satisfactory to me. Several attended who were not members, and behaved in a very becoming manner. I labored among this people to the relief of my own mind, and it appeared to be to the satisfaction of my friends. Went to a Friend's house to dine, in company with O. Paxson and some other Friends. In a sitting after dinner, Oliver spoke in a very encouraging manner to me. I was made sensible that he had been favored to dip with me in my deep baptisms. After which I parted with the dear aged Friend, under a sense of his affectionate regard for me, and secret prayer for my preservation. May his fatherly care over me be remembered!

"First-day, 7th. Went to a meeting at Bristol, which was attended by a considerable number of people who are not members of our Society. It was a time of hard labor. I had to sound an alarm amongst them, under a sense of great deficiency in coming up in faithful obedience to the manifestations of Divine grace. Felt more exhausted in my bodily strength after the meeting than had ever been my experience in the exercise of the ministry; but was favored to enjoy

a quiet calm, which I esteemed a great favor. After meeting we went to P. B.'s, and after dinner, had a comfortable sitting with a number of valuable Friends who were with us at this place, some from neighboring meetings. Here we parted with our beloved Friends Joshua Sharpless and wife, who had been acceptably with us at all the meetings in the compass of Bucks Quarter. Joshua spoke a few words by way of encouragement before we parted; said it had been a satisfaction to him to be with us from meeting to meeting.

"9th. Attended Solebury Meeting, which was composed of a mixed multitude—many, not members, being there. After sitting some time in silence, I stood up with a small opening, yet as I endeavored to keep in a state of humility, experienced an increase of strength to my humbling admiration; and it proved to be a memorable day to me.

"10th. Attended Buckingham meeting, which was a time of hard labor; was favored to relieve my mind in a good degree, but did not feel quite so comfortable when the meeting concluded, as I had on some other occasions; the cause I had to leave; was ready to conclude it might be on my own account, lest I should be exalted above measure."

This finished his visit, and he reached home the same evening; and in retrospect of his little journey, he says, "I am renewedly confirmed in the belief, that when the Good Shepherd puts forth, He will not fail to go before and make a way for his humble, dependent children."

In a letter to his cousin, H. F., who was a teacher at Westtown School, dated 7th mo. 31st, 1812, he wrote as follows:—"Thou asks concerning my hurt. Well, I may tell thee, it was a very narrow escape from losing my life. I am now nearly recovered; which I esteem a singular favor. O, how necessary it is for us to be prepared, seeing we know not the day nor the hour when we may be called upon to give an account of our stewardship. I feel more at times than I can express, the importance of endeavoring to live in a state of innocency, and in a willingness to do what may be required of us. It matters not whether we are hewers of wood, or drawers of water, if we are only faithful in the line of Divine appointment, it will be sufficient, through mercy, to procure for us at the close of time, an entrance into the mansions of rest, 'Where the morning stars sing together, and all the sons of God shout for joy.'

"I have often been made sensible, my dear cousin, that thou hast thy deep wadings, and seasons of close proving to pass through. Well, notwithstanding this is the case, do not let in discouragement. I know very well what it is to pass through such seasons; they are good for us, and have a tendency to keep us humble; which is the most acceptable state we poor finite beings can be found in—even a state of humility."

In the Twelfth month of this year, he paid a religious visit to the families of Gwynedd Particular Meeting, having upwards of ninety sittings.

In the Fifth month, 1813, he was liberated to attend

the Yearly Meeting of New York. On the 19th he set out, being accompanied by his father-in-law, and on the evening of the 20th, "We arrived," he says, "at the house of Henry Shotwell, in the town of Rahway, a handsome little village. At this place we met with our Friend Susannah Horne, from England, and her companions, dear old John Hoskins, from Burlington, and a number of other valuable Friends, all on their way to the Yearly Meeting, at New York. Spent the evening pleasantly with our beloved Friends.

"Sixth-day, 21st. We had a time of solid retirement in this family, with the wife and children of H. S., he being from home as companion to a ministering Friend. We were comforted in being with them. Dear S. Horne, had something to offer, which had a very solemnizing effect on all, I believe, that were present. I had to cast in my little mite also, and set my seal to what S. H. had to say. Felt peace of mind on leaving this place. We travelled over a beautiful turnpike road through Elizabethtown, Newark, &c., crossed the Hudson River in a steam ferry boat, and arrived in New York city about one o'clock. We met with a kind young Friend at the ferry, who piloted us to Francis Thompson's, where we were kindly received, and took up our lodgings at his house.

"22d. At ten o'clock, we went to the opening of the Meeting of Ministers and Elders, held in the meeting-house on Pearl Street; which was a favored season. Dear old Abel Thomas, had considerable to say in the meeting for worship, very much to my satisfaction.

"Elizabeth Coggshall opened in this meeting a pros-

pect of paying a religious visit in Ireland and some parts of England. The subject claimed the solid attention of the meeting, and was feelingly united with, and a committee appointed to prepare a certificate for her.

"Susannah Horne informed the meeting that she did not see much further service for her in this country, and a committee was appointed to prepare a certificate for her.

"Henry Hull informed the meeting, that he had accomplished his visit to the British Isles, and produced a certificate from the Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders of London, expressive of their unity with his labors in Truth's service in that country. It was noted in the certificate, that on the day it was given forth, they had received the affecting intelligence of the decease of dear Henry Hull's wife and son. The testimony concerning him, and his labors in that land, was truly satisfactory.

"The subjects introduced by H. Hull, S. Horne and E. Coggshall, had a very solemnizing effect over the meeting. Adjourned to four o'clock in the afternoon, when the Queries and answers were read and considered. There was not much said during the reading of the answers to those important queries; according to the sense I had, it was rather a low time. There was some exception in some of the answers in regard to love and unity, which was truly affecting to some deeply exercised minds. After sitting some considerable time, and suffering with the seed of life, dear Richard Jordan stood up, and was engaged in a very solemn and affecting manner in the exercise of his gift; had to treat

pretty largely on the subject of love and unity; the inconsistency of Christians, or the followers of Christ, being at enmity one against another; how very discouraging it must be to those who are not of our persuasion, when they look towards us, a highly professing people, and see that we have not the mark of true discipleship, which is, 'Love one for another,' but behold in us as well as in other people, that there is strife and animosity amongst us.

"I sat among my friends as a scholar, willing to be taught, being sensible that I have need to learn in the school of Christ; but believe I was favored to sympathize, in some degree, with the suffering seed.

"First-day morning, I attended the meeting on Pearl Street, which was a crowded assembly. In the fore part, there were several appearances in the line of ministry, but I could not feel that settledness in the minds of the people, which I coveted for them, as well as for myself. After this we had a silent sitting for a considerable time, then dear John Cox, from Burlington, bore a lively testimony. He commenced with the exhortation of the Apostle Paul to Timothy: 'Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.' After he sat down, Susannah Horne appeared in solemn supplication. The meeting then concluded, under a sense of favor extended to us near the close of this opportunity. At four o'clock, I attended Liberty Street meeting, which was small. After sitting some time in silence, I spoke a few words, and felt peace of mind in attending to what seemed to be given me

to offer. Soon after I sat down, J. Baldwin addressed the young people in a very affectionate manner; after which the meeting concluded. In the evening I paid a visit to Caleb and Elizabeth Coggshall. We had a time of solemn retirement together, and I felt it to be my place to speak the language of encouragement to my beloved friends, believing I was favored, in some degree, to sympathize with those who are deeply tried and proved, and that the everlasting Arms are underneath, to support those who have no might of their own. J. R., from Philadelphia, set her seal to what had been said, with some little addition. This was a very unexpected religious opportunity to me, but I had to believe it was a favored one, and returned to my lodgings in a quiet frame of mind."

We do not find any further account of this Yearly Meeting.

In the latter part of this year, J. W. paid a religious visit to the meetings of Exeter and Muncy Monthly Meetings. Of his exercises on this journey he kept no particular account; only a brief mention of the places and meetings they were at.

This, our dear Friend, was taken sick about the 15th of Eighth month, 1814. A physician was early called in, who pronounced the disease bilious remitting fever. In about two weeks the fever seemed considerably broken, and strong hopes of his recovery were entertained. But a change for the worse soon ensued. He had much oppression, and a hard cough throughout his illness; and in addition to his bodily sufferings,

passed through much conflict of mind. On the night of the 2nd of Ninth month, he altered greatly. A dear friend of his, a fellow-laborer in the gospel, sat up with him that night; whom he asked to read to to him from Isaiah, the passage, "For a small moment have I forsaken thee, but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer." He requested it might be read again, and after hearing it the second time remarked, it felt comfortable, and he believed it applicable to his situation; said he had often found comfort and consolation in the Scriptures. He further said to the friend, "Whatever thou doest, J——, neglect not the cause nor the testimony, for this will prove of greater importance than anything else. Thou feelest very near to me, and I can tell thee as Jacob Lindley once told Thomas Scattergood, 'I do love thee, and feel as if I could live with thee forever.'"

When raised in the morning, for a little change of position, he exclaimed, "O, I am so weak, I should not wonder if I did not live through the day." On this day (which was Seventh-day), he desired his brothers and sisters might be sent for. Although his recovery appeared doubtful to himself for the greater part of his illness, yet he did not seem so fully sensible of this being his last illness, until now.

On Second-day afternoon, he inquired if all were in the room. His wife answered they were, viz., his brothers and sisters, also his wife's, and her father and mother. He then requested to be raised a little; after which he spoke out with a clear audible voice, to the

astonishment of all present, his weakness considered: "I feel my mind drawn to give forth this short testimony concerning our dear Lord. He hath been kind to me, from childhood down to the present time, and has been with me in my present affliction; and I feel a confidence which warrants me to say, He will be merciful to my soul." He then addressed his brothers, and said, "I want you to choose the Lord for your portion, and the mighty God of Jacob for the lot of your inheritance." And he requested they might have a parental care over his precious children. To a sister, he said, "And thou, my dear sister, thou art a talented young woman; if thou art faithful, thou wilt be made to shine as a fixed star in God's firmament." He further said, "Let all be concerned for the immortal part; though you may be continued here a little longer, you must all come to this—you will all have to die!" Here he paused—then continued, "And if the awful change should take place in a short time, keep composed! Let all things be done decently and in order." Shortly after a consulting physician arrived, (Dr. Atlee, from Philadelphia.) He told the doctor he had very little prospect he could do much for him, but was willing one more effort should be made. The doctors consulted together, and ordered some change in the treatment, but said, a very short time would determine whether these prescriptions would answer; and so it proved; he was fast failing. About eleven o'clock he had a very hard spell of coughing, which occasioned great pain at his breast; and his distress at this time was such, that he prayed in a very solemn entreat-

ing manner, that "The work might be cut short in righteousness."

He requested his brothers might be sent for, who came shortly, and also a beloved uncle, to whom he said, "O uncle! dear uncle, how glad I am to see thee! Ah, I believe I am going." The doctor coming in, he said to him, "Well, doctor, thou hast done what thou could to raise this poor tabernacle. I have been sensible of thy kind attention to me since I have been on this sick bed, but now I am going." After this, there was a considerable time of silence, when, the doctor being about to retire, he called him to the bed-side and said, "My mind has been exercised on thy account, doctor, that thou mayest be concerned for thyself—for the immortal part. I desire to do all that is required of me on thy account." Then mentioned to him the principal subject of his concern. "Be willing to take the advice of a poor staggering brother, reduced to such bodily weakness! Farewell, doctor! I must now leave thee to the gift of God, and the word of His grace, which is able to build thee up in the most holy faith, and finally receive thee into His kingdom of rest." After a little time the doctor retired.

From the evidence that was felt that his work was finished, his mother was induced to say to him, that "There seemed to be the language of Well done." He noticed what was said, but made no reply. After a time of stillness, a precious stillness, not only to him, but to all present, he turned his head upon the pillow and said; "Come, dearest Lord, thy servant

is ready; at least it feels so to me; if anything yet remains, be pleased to wash it away, that thou mayest receive my soul into glory!"

He continued entirely sensible, waiting patiently, and took leave of all separately. Some time after, in a low whisper he inquired if all the family were present—hoped none would leave in this solemn time. His wife told him all were present. It was truly a solemn time; but his patience continued to the last, though he had several very severe spells of suffering; yet, when these had passed by, he would lay easy, and the joy of his heart was expressed by the serenity of his countenance, and by the frequent lifting up of his hands. Thus his sufferings ended, and his day closed, about half past ten in the evening of the 6th of Ninth month, 1814; and there is no doubt but that he entered into the joy of his Lord, and into his heavenly Father's rest. Being aged 34 years.

MEMOIR

OF

HANNAH WILLIAMS.

She was the daughter of Jacob and Mary Albertson, of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, and was born in the year 1784. During her childhood and youth, she was of a lively, social disposition, and early evinced a maturity of judgment and deportment beyond her years; her mother confiding in her as her especial friend. She says of this period, "Our parents were at all times careful to attend religious meetings, and they took me to two Yearly Meetings with them when quite young, which, to me, were times of favor; and instruction was sealed on my tender mind, not yet forgotten by me." Her parents being exemplary in plainness themselves, were concerned to bring up their children in conformity with that simplicity which our Christian principles lead into, and she ever yielded a ready compliance with their wholesome restraints in this respect.

To her brothers and sisters, all of whom were younger than herself, she was a most affectionate and exemplary sister, being pleasant and cheerful with them, and not assuming an authoritative conduct amongst them, or over her associates at school.

A brother that survived her a few years, has left

upon record this testimony concerning her: "She was in those days a pattern of all that we admire in childhood, a choice sister as would be found in a thousand. This part of her life is still fresh in my memory, and presents the strongest draughts upon gratitude and affectionate remembrance."

In the spring of 1799, soon after Westtown Boarding School was opened, she was sent there a scholar, being about the twelfth or thirteenth entered. She was then in her fifteenth year; and in allusion to this period, she wrote in after years, "I yet remember with gladness my feelings at that school before I was fifteen years of age; and the labors of my concerned friends there, have been helpful on my journey, especially helpful, along the tribulated path of life."

After her return from Westtown, she was engaged as an assistant teacher, in a boarding school kept by her parents in their own house, for a period of three years. "It was about this time," says another of her brothers, "when I was about thirteen years of age, that she was instrumental in effectually checking in me a growing fondness for gunning, shooting birds, &c. On one occasion, having shot a robin in the orchard, I brought it to the house, when she addressed me on the cruelty of this amusement, 'Which owes its pleasures to another's pain;' and so touching and impressive were her appeals, that I ever after felt restrained from indulging in that 'detested sport.'"

In the Ninth month, 1804, she went to Westtown as a teacher, and continued there three years. From some memorandums she kept during this time, it ap-

pears she was much interested in those she had the care of instructing, and endeavored to discharge the duties of teacher with fidelity; being concerned that they should not only advance in learning, but also acquire habits of virtue and sobriety. It is very observable that she kept up the warfare against the enemies of her own household, in order for her growth and preservation in the truth; and she does not conceal the fact that she had many weaknesses to contend with: at one time she would record with regret, and hopes of future amendment, that she gave way to too much laughter; at another time, spoke something she had better not have said, and thus brought forth fruit for repentance. But she learned by the things she suffered to be more on her guard, and labored to have a conscience void of offence.

Some time after her return from that institution, she was united in marriage to Jesse Williams, son of Richard and Sarah Williams, of North Carolina. He was an approved and esteemed minister of the gospel. They lived together in much unity for about seven years, part of the time at Evesham, New Jersey, where he kept a school. He died at his residence at Plymouth, in the Ninth month, 1814, after an illness of about three weeks, in the thirty-fifth year of his age. A brief account of his life, and of its close, precedes this.

Thus Hannah Williams was early left a widow, with four small children, three daughters, and one little boy a few months old, to provide for. She continued a widow the remainder of her life; and for the main-

tenance of her family opened a boarding and day school, in her own house, which she continued till near the close of her life: in retrospect near the conclusion thereof, saying, "More than two-thirds of my life has been more or less taken up in the care of children: on retrospection have but little to say for myself: if a blessing has rested on my labor in any particular, the praise be to the Great Dispenser of blessings. But this I may say, many times when sitting in school, my spirit has been refreshed from a belief, that the good seed would be watered in the hearts of some of the young, and grow to be a plant of renown."

Through the blessing of a kind Providence on her honest endeavors, she was enabled to maintain her family reputably; the daughters as they became of sufficient age, assisted in the school, and she employed from time to time, other teachers, as they were needed.

She was, through life, a steady attender of meetings for Divine Worship, as well as those for Discipline, taking her family with her; the prosperity of Truth, and the welfare of our religious Society, being very near to her best feelings.

She was called to fill various important stations in religious Society, in all of which, she was concerned to keep a single eye to the honor of Truth. She stood in the station of Elder and Overseer in the Monthly Meeting to which she belonged for many years; and was for a considerable time a member of the committee having charge of the Boarding School at Westtown. She felt a deep interest in the right management and welfare of this institution; and diligently attended to

its concerns as long as her health and strength permitted; and her services were much valued in the committee.

Her compassion and tenderness towards the brute creation, were remarkable, yet greater, if possible towards suffering humanity. The poor, the sick, the afflicted in any way, claimed her sympathy, and what her limited resources afforded, was cheerfully administered for their relief and comfort. She exercised sound discretion in her benevolence, not always withholding assistance on account of the improvidence of the sufferers; but administered also advice, instruction, counsel or reproof, as the case appeared to require.

She had but a humble estimate of her own labors and position in society; saying at one time, "In my young days it was sealed to my understanding and best sense, that no great or public place was for me; but a good *example* was required in all things: and a voice followed close, saying intelligibly to the ear of my soul in early days, 'This is the way, walk thou in it:' when tempted to turn either to the right hand, or left, the monitor was at hand; and even to this day, I see no more required but a sound steady example; not many words, and those to the point in the business laid upon me from one period to another. And greatly have I been comforted and strengthened in this my way, when I have found my exercises have been in accordance with those of the faithful, either of the present day, or of those who have passed away. But I have not always been careful enough, and sorrow has been the result. Temptations yet await in this lowly

path; a whispering, Why not do and be as others who are better than I? then the first and early injunction presses for place, 'This is the way.' I cannot be too thankful that the rod and staff still correct and comfort me."

The extracts from letters, &c., which constitute the greater portion of this Memoir, were penned during the last twenty years of her life, and it is believed they may serve as way-marks to others who may peruse them, and animate to faithfulness, by observing her careful, Christian walking, along the chequered path of life.

"1816. The Yearly Meeting collected, and quietly commenced business; not interrupted with preaching that did not apply; had some short, lively remarks. H. Kirkbride is lively in good things; my heart has rejoiced in seeing and believing there are many valiants in our Yearly Meeting of the elder and younger class. Hannah Smith, Sarah Emlen and Sarah Cresson, side by side in the second gallery, are quite an ornament to the meeting. Epistles were read from all the Yearly Meetings; after which, some good remarks were made in a clear and comprehensive manner, relative to the propriety of this correspondence with our Friends at a distance when done in the life; alleging, that 'the Spirit maketh alive, but the letter killeth.' Third-day—morning and afternoon sittings were occupied with reading the Queries with their answers, from the respective meetings, and were weightily considered; the non-attendance of week-day meetings, sleeping in meetings,

&c., speaking detractively of our neighbors and one another, was, in a very interesting and instructive manner, set before us; also, the subject of dress, and extravagance in household furniture, &c., was feelingly spoken to; I thought nothing was left untouched. Many of our worthy ancients and middle-aged, are greatly favored to bring forth out of the treasury things new and old, to the instruction of many minds. Much encouragement was held forth to those in affluent circumstances, to remember the poor, and not be too fearful of hurting their feelings, but endeavor to search out the cause they knew not; this was, more than is common, extensively treated upon, with the education of the children of such. When the answers to the eighth Query was before the meeting, some remarks were made on account of cases being introduced *seasonably* into our Monthly Meetings, and *dismissed* at the proper time. At our afternoon sitting, on Fourth-day, a memorial for our dear Friend Thomas Scattergood was read, which spread a solemnity over the meeting; which, with a few remarks on the life and death of the righteous, by Hannah Fisher, closed that sitting. Attended Arch Street meeting for worship; which was favored with a very interesting testimony from a dear Friend, concerning the seed of the kingdom, which 'is the least of all seeds,' &c. The afternoon sitting, received a visit from ———, who treated affectionately with mothers, to exercise a godly care over the children, and was much favored; addressed the children in a most moving manner; and then a little relating to those active in Monthly and other

Meetings, that they should be careful when going forth to deal with offenders, to go clothed with love; which would have a tendency to reclaim and to restore. An interesting communication followed, encouraging, comforting and strengthening to the widowed mothers, showing that they and their fatherless children were peculiar objects of heavenly regard; *this* I could do no other than, with others present, apply to my own situation. At the close of this sitting, a testimony was read for Jacob Lindley. Sixth-day's sittings were occupied reading the account of the Boarding School, Indian reports, &c.; also a memorial from the Monthly Meeting of Friends for the Southern District, for Deborah Evans, wife of William Evans; it was truly an interesting and affecting account—deceased in the 28th year of her age; very lively and encouraging testimonies followed the reading of it, to our dear young women; a concern, was also felt and expressed for us, recommending moderation in all things, and to endeavor to circumscribe our wants."

* * * * *

"1818. The Yearly Meeting of women Friends commenced with a solemn supplication from Mary Naftel, after which the usual business was entered upon. At our afternoon sitting, the representatives proposed the reappointment of Catharine Morris and Sarah Wilson for Clerks, which was feelingly united with; after which, there was an appointment to essay epistles; there was a proposition that the appointment be made from the several Quarters, and not in the usual manner; this, Mary Naftel sanctioned, with querying, 'how those

were to be helped who had lain, as it were, among the pots,' if not by being banded together with the older and more experienced, and wished the appointment might be made amongst those who were of the little ones, who had not come up to this solemnity in the pride or haughtiness of their hearts; but who were bound to the Truth, and who loved it and were saying within themselves, 'Is there not a cause?' In this sitting there was not much done, but *much* was felt, and what was said was *feelingly* said. Whilst the state of Society was before the meeting on Third-day, much salutary advice was given, and many instructive remarks made."

* * * * *

"4th mo. 13th, 1823. Our Select Meeting was conducted with propriety and weight. Our dear Friend, George Withy, from England, had some very close, pertinent remarks to make at the close of the business.

"16th. Whilst the state of Society was before the meeting, it was introduced into a lively concern and travail for the help of the church from its present low state. The neglect of duty as regards the attendance of week-day meetings, was cause of painful exercise, and such Friends as feel bound to attend all our religious meetings, were encouraged to extend care in an affectionate manner to those who are sometimes absent, and that the dear children, and others of the family, might have way made for them. The subjects of love and unity, and tale-bearing and detraction, were feelingly spoken to: it was recommended that we dwell in the patience, when we apprehend we have been in-

jured or hurt by the misconduct of a Friend; not telling it to another, and thereby weakening our own hands. That of speaking of the weaknesses or failings of a Friend, and giving ear to something of detraction or tale-bearing, was cause of much concern. The subject of the poor was affectionately recommended to those in more affluent circumstances, not limiting their bounty to those only who were under the care of Monthly Meetings. The subject of dealing with offenders, was carefully investigated. Some of the answers stated, they were dealt with agreeably to our discipline; it was observed, such might be treated with agreeably to the *letter* of the discipline, and yet fall short of the spirit of restoring love, which is the spirit and life of our discipline. Monthly Meetings were exhorted to be weighty in the nomination of Friends, to treat with such as transgress the rules of Society, as much depended on a right appointment to such services. I have wished that the exercise might be carried as *purely* as it could be to the several Quarterly Meetings, believing that the wing of Ancient Goodness hovered over our meeting this day. Many were favored to enter into the concerns of Society profitably to themselves and to the meeting, which was cause of encouragement humbly to depend upon the *sufficiency* of that Arm of power which is underneath, to support all the rightly concerned in their various allotments and stations in Society. The report of the committee appointed last year, to visit the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings, was read; which excited a deep travail for the preservation of Friends upon the *ancient* foundation. A

copy of the report is to be sent down to the Subordinate Meetings. It must be acknowledged, that our meeting has been evidently owned, and Best Help afforded to transact the weighty business that has come before us, and much faithful labor bestowed."

"1824. During the sittings of this Yearly Meeting, and whilst the state of Society was before it, many subjects were touched upon: that of living within the bounds of our circumstances; that we be so under the circumscribing limits of truth, as to live within them, not looking out at others, but be willing to deny ourselves many things, in order that the husbands and fathers might not be too much tied down to the earth to obtain the means. The young women were called upon to turn at the reproofs of instruction—to faithfulness in 'little things;' also, to suppress a word, or even a look, that was improper. Dear Sarah Cresson was very lively and sweet in her address to the young women, on their reading improper publications; and just as the adjournment was about being read, she arose again and said, 'O, it is very desirable that all would keep still until the meeting is regularly adjourned, and dwell under the precious covering, which in mercy is offered as the crown and diadem of our assemblies.' The answers to the Queries, all show much weakness amongst us. It seemed very desirable, all should be able to divide between the letter and the spirit in the application of the discipline, and in understanding the Queries. Counsel flowed to overseers, and to all concerned Friends, that they visit the widows and the

fatherless, and those in affliction; if nothing be said, endeavor to enter into their situation, feel where they are, and what may be their trials. E. B. spoke to such as had been marvellously met with, in a way they in no wise looked for; also had their doubts and perplexities removed. She recommended them to be on the watch, and to be *still;* not presume on their attainments. M. L. desired that we might gather up the fragments. * * * * Then A. B. addressed young mothers on the care of their little ones; related how it had been with her, and what Truth called her off from. She spoke as one who had yet much to learn; that she hardly dare look into the future; meaning, as I understood, that her own children were young, and she knew not what might happen. She is one who being wise is made simple, and being willing to be simple, is made wise. Our dear aged Friend Hannah Kirkbride, is lively and green in age. Truly we have been favored with the countenance and help of the Head of the Church at this season."

The following is addressed to a child at Westtown:

"12th mo., 1828.

"My child, try as time passes, to lay up a little store of durable good; you have many opportunities, good times at meeting, with committee Friends, and others,—and times of quiet, wherein you may think and reflect. Learn to think; it produces stability. Stability and humility are marks of a sound Christian. O, I have longed that my children may know something better, than much that is passing around

them here; there is so much that may be compared to the chaff, so much that is nothing worth, that I have often longed they might have something better to be looking at for example. * * * * These lessons are best learned in silence, and in begging to be preserved and instructed. I hope my dear child will open her ear that way, and hearken and hear. The Great Teacher teaches such himself. I could say much, but a little may suffice; only remember it is thy mother's most especial wish, that thou may often think of these things."

To the same.

"1st mo. 22nd, 1829.

"The list of teachers at Westtown thou sent me, I looked over. Four of the number who were there when I was, have gone from works to rewards. And from accounts of their close, together with my knowledge of that portion of their lives spent there, I thought we might say they were blessed. And when I compare that state with the rest of us who remain, I could indeed say, 'Blessed are the dead who have died in the Lord.'"

To the same.

"3rd mo. 16th.

"Thy account of your First-day evening reading, and your good superintendent's exhortation, were interesting to me. Good opportunities we used to have at times, on such occasions; good counsel sometimes from the teachers, sometimes from the superintendents

or from committee or other concerned Friends. That school has been from its first beginning, under the peculiar notice of Him who sleepeth not by day nor slumbereth by night, filling the hearts of faithful servants with a word in due season for the dear children placed there; and in many and various ways caring for it. Our dear Friend Thomas Scattergood's services there, I do not forget, and hope none will who partook thereof. He spent two summers there, out of religious concern for the school—much of the time being spent in the schools, and with the teachers —was capable of entering into feeling with them on all occasions, and was generally present in all difficulties, affording counsel, and strengthening the hands that were often ready to hang down; giving advice to the children, both separately and together: and was very commonly with us at the times of collecting. I do afresh remember his labors in meetings, and out of them. Our Friend Samuel Smith, was also there in a similar way, though not at the same time."

"4th mo., 1829. I came to Philadelphia, to attend the Yearly Meeting. Morning and afternoon was at the meeting of Ministers and Elders. An exercise prevailed respecting the care of parents over their children, that they should be educated consistently with our Christian profession. A concern also prevailed that ministers should dwell with their gifts, and minister only in right ability. Thomas Shillitoe did not fail to exhort to put away out of our houses, gods of gold, of silver, of wood and of stone, together with that

disposition which is not in accordance with the spirit of Truth; and said he had seen in the visions of light, that as this became the concern of Friends, we should again come forth in ancient brightness.

"I had unity with the exercise of the meetings, though feeling very low. The importance of properly being a member of that meeting, and my own sense of the qualifications I possessed were so at variance, that only a hope I might improve, made me willing again to go.

"On Second-day, during the morning and afternoon sittings, epistles from all the Yearly Meetings were read; the language of which was unusually grateful to my feelings. It is a time when what we feel and communicate in this epistolary way, is not the floating imaginations of the head, but as 'Deep calling unto deep.'

"Third-day. Whilst the third Query was under consideration, pertinent counsel was given relative to the right education of youth, and to the care of parents, first over themselves, then toward their children. Ann Jones [of England], was concerned for the younger part of families, spoke of the impropriety of young persons associating in companies out of the company of their older friends, often exposing them to frivolous talk and much laughing, whereby precious time was consumed, and weakness added; not prohibiting proper associating with each other, and letting their parents be their nearest friends, to whom all their little grievances might be committed. Parents cannot be too careful to keep open this communicative channel; it is a source

of much comfort and consolation often, both to parents and children.

"The daily reading of the Holy Scriptures was recommended. So much evidence of its being a pure concern accompanied the opening, that I have no doubt many amongst us, if faithful, will have not only to approve, but adopt it.

"The use of the plain language in its true grammatical way, was left by dear Ann Jones as a testimony to the truth, that the time was at hand, or coming, that "My people shall have a pure language;" and that we must come to be a more spiritually-minded people; that those who are looking to us for examples, may not be turned away in disappointment, saying, these people are not the people they profess to be; professing to be led and guided by the spirit of Truth, and yet in their movements disregarding it.

"I do feel prepared to unite with the precious testimonies of the Friends exercised this day in meeting, amongst whom was dear Sarah Cresson, setting her seal to the benefit of silent waiting in families, and to the reading of the Holy Scriptures. But whether human weakness will prevail to preventing my attempts in humility and simplicity to be more careful in these respects than heretofore, with heart and mind to look to Him who is able to bless, I know not; but I crave the blessing of preservation, and to be found coming up in my place.

"While the state of Society was before the meeting, much excellent counsel was handed on various subjects. Friends were encouraged to faithfulness in the attend-

ance of meetings, both for worship and discipline; parents of children, especially young mothers and young housekeepers, were very tenderly and affectionately entreated to be moderate in their expenses, in their families, and on their little children, and to labor day by day to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

"I was greatly comforted in finding from time to time during this meeting, and especially at the close of this sitting, Friends called home by a living gospel call, such as would gather all who are really desirous to be instructed, who have been scattered in the dark and cloudy day.

"Seventh-day morning, met at 9 o'clock. Shortly after the meeting settled, men Friends informed us that Thomas Shillitoe wished to pay a visit to women's meeting; which being united with he came, and was favored to address the youth with an earnest call, which he believed would not always be extended to the children of this people; but if disregarded and slighted, not being willing to deny themselves and come forward in the Lord's cause of truth and righteousness, that the very stones of the street would cry out, and those from highways and hedges would be called in to take their places, even the places of the children of professing Abraham. I thought the fervency and earnest travail of this faithful servant did indeed claim the very close attention of all: I did believe it to be a gospel call. He then addressed the female heads of families; encouraged them so to manage their domestic matters, as to have more quiet in their families. His mind had

often been pained to see the bustle and hurry many were in; hardly time to sit down at all; that in consequence of their tables being furnished with such a variety, they were much engaged in cooking; that three times a day to cook warm victuals, kept the female head and her help (if she had any) almost all day cooking and washing dishes, that time for retirement or reading was precluded. He gave solid advice respecting silence before meals, that as this practice was carefully observed with hearts of gratitude for bodily refreshment, their souls would sometimes be spiritually refreshed. He mentioned also his exercises, on account of the manner in which mothers dress their children in infant life; though to appearance, tolerably consistent themselves, yet, by their conduct in these matters, proved they were not abiding under the power of the cross in themselves. Mentioned the little boys, when at an age to put on buttoned clothes, his feelings had been hurt to see how fantastically their clothes were made, so many needless buttons, &c.

"After he withdrew, the way was left open for many exercised minds to obtain some relief. Sarah Cresson strengthened the concern by adding her portion, believing, as she said, the time was coming that the Babylonish garment would be searched out: that though some might say these were little things, yet they were an outward and visible sign of inward want: encouraged heads of families to be faithful to those placed under their care. Take time to sit down in retirement with their little ones, that so a blessing might attend. She expressed a hope, that by discharg-

ing their duty in these respects, a little army would be raised up for the Lord from among the youth in this Yearly Meeting, who would stand faithful for the law and testimony.

"There was much solemnity over the meeting under these communications; no doubt it was the language of the Spirit to the church, through these instruments. There was one part of dear T. Shillitoe's concern which I omitted. In speaking of the children's dress,—it prepared the way for departures as they grew up, and often was the means of introducing them into unsuitable company, whereby there were outgoings in marriage."

To one of her daughters.

"11th mo. 9th.

"Thy account of the Quarterly Meeting, was truly good; how we ought to prize such precious opportunities! I feel thankful to my parents who zealously attended all our meetings, and took their families with them; which is the duty of parents, and often is blessed to the children. * * * * As regards our aged Friend, Jonathan Evans, I consider him one of the faithful standard-bearers in our day, an 'Elder worthy of double honor;' and that his children are as a staff in his hand."

"4th mo. 1830. The first sitting of the Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders, was held mostly in silence, until the business commenced. Our dear Friend, Ann Jones, had a short testimony in comme-

moration of the unmerited mercy and goodness of the Shepherd of Israel, who has made bare his arm for the help of his people, and wrought great deliverance. She alluded to the fact, that several who had stood as upright pillars, had of latter time been removed from works to rewards, and encouraged those who remained, to a faithful discharge of their respective duties; adding that for herself, above every thing else, she had desired to be united to the seed of life, and to dwell with it.

"In the afternoon, the remaining Queries with their answers were read. I was sensible there was silent exercise on the various deficiencies apparent, and verily there is need of a close abiding with the gift, and with the Giver of the gift, to be able, in truth, to answer so clear.

"The excellency of a sound gospel ministry was held up to view, and the blessing it was to the church; and the necessity of ministers and elders dwelling deep and waiting in our meetings; which are much stripped in many places. The ancient declaration was revived: 'I will leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the Lord.'

"The answer to the fourth Query, was from all the Quarters, 'We endeavor to train our children, and the youth under our care, in plainness of dress and simplicity of manners becoming our religious profession.' The clerk, Samuel Bettle, considered this 'An indefinite way of answering the Query. We may endeavor, and yet not have the endeavor crowned with success.' He queried, 'Did we believe it possible to come up in

a faithful discharge of duty?' He believed 'It was not only possible, but absolutely necessary we should, if ever our Society shone in brightness.' He considered 'a failure in fulfilling our duty to our offspring in this respect, one fruitful source of the trials which have overtaken our religious Society. O, the daily, deep indwelling that it requires to be prepared to meet our various trials and difficulties which may occur; not only in meetings but on all occasions, to have our minds so seasoned with grace, that our example and precept might have influence with those under our care.' I did feel near unity with the concern, and thankful to hear it held up to view in so much love and life. It is a testimony which early in life, took deep hold upon my feelings, by hearing dear fathers and mothers in the truth, recommending it affectionately to the youth, which, with the care of my piously concerned parents, have tended instrumentally to fasten the matter so with me, that if I fall from it, it will be against the full conviction of the propriety of such care, and I shall be left without excuse. I do humbly hope that Good Hand which has followed me all my life long, will continue to instruct, reprove and strengthen me, in this and every work which is allotted me.

"Our meeting on Second-day morning, was favored with a season of solemn quiet before proceeding to business; during which a prayer was offered up by dear Ann Jones, to the great Head of the church, so to keep us during the sittings, in our coming together, and in separating to our several places of abode, as

would, indeed, bewray us that we had been with Jesus, and bring praise to his name."

To one of her daughters.

"1830.

"Thy account of the meeting was interesting. I used to be favored occasionally with hearing our dear Friend John Cox, in the exercise of his gift, and it was as thou saidst, 'Something sweet attended,' especially in supplication. The remembrance of him is very precious to me. He and his worthy wife were of the Westtown School Committee in those days. * * * * I desire we may be so humble as to witness the blessing of preservation. It is the humble the Lord teaches of his ways, and the meek he guides in the midst of the paths of judgment. * * * * *

"I have been thinking about the little folks not always behaving well in meetings. It would be a good plan, as thou mayst feel ability, at times to remind them in whose sight they are, even their heavenly Father's; that it would be displeasing to Him for any of us to sit down under the pretence of worship, and not endeavor to be quiet and wait to feel his good presence to be near. Thus to enlist their attention and interest, would be very advantageous to them.

"We had good meetings on Fourth and Fifth-days. —— —— was clear and lively in the ministry; addressed the young people, advising against departures from our testimonies in little things, which the voice of their better feelings in their best moments is against. Attention to this inspeaking voice, preserves from turning to the right hand or to the left."

To the same.

"5th mo., 1832.

"I did enter feelingly into sympathy with you all, including the dear invalid, not doubting but her bodily sufferings were extreme. To be able to lay hold of holy confidence in saving help, must be an unspeakable favor and support, when the sufferings of the poor body preclude much opportunity to look around and see how it is with us."

To her son.

"9th-mo. 9th.

"Try, my dear child, to be very quiet and still as thou goes along, and give way to sober reflection; it will greatly aid in forming a steady, valuable character, make thee useful among men, and prepare thee for another state of being. * * * Our little scholars have all been regularly here this damp weather, as lively as if the sun shone. How much sprightliness attends the morning of life! Some of us who have grown sober during the toils of the day, can hardly remember how to understand it always, and yet it is truly pleasant to see it."

No date. "We had a good meeting to-day, and were informed how to be in a condition to have good meetings. Though at times we might be permitted to sit poor and empty, yet by a patient waiting, the Lord would arise for our help. The young people were very tenderly addressed.

"4th mo. 1833. Attended the select Yearly Meet-

ing. It was a precious meeting. A feeling of solemnity, and the owning presence of the Great Head of the Church was prevalent. It was truly strengthening and comforting, after a long winter season, in which poverty and weakness were the clothing of some of our minds, on account of the weak state of many meetings, and the lukewarmness of many who do profess to attend, and to retain their right in Society.

"Our Friend, Christopher Healy, now returned the certificate granted him two years since, to visit Friends and others in Great Britain and Ireland, together with a short account of his labors while there, delivered with feeling, under a grateful sense of being sustained, and helped through and over low seasons both of body and mind.

"First-day, morning and afternoon, I attended the meeting held on Arch Street. The house was crowded, up stairs and down. The meeting in the morning was nearly held in silence; that in the afternoon entirely so, and to me it was a solid sitting, and had on my feelings a strengthening and vivifying effect.

"On Third-day, the Queries with their answers were read. Many lively and pertinent remarks were made, adapted to the deficiencies still apparent, and the mourning of the church therefor was felt. It was cause of thankfulness to the Great Head of the Church, that He was pleased to enable his servants to hold up encouragement to be faithful in all our different meetings; to advise and encourage, as way opens, such members as are negligent in the attendance of religious meetings, and that we watch over the youth and

others, for their good, and in love encourage all to maintain faithfully our testimony to plainness of speech, behavior and apparel. The subject of a hireling ministry was very feelingly touched upon, a testimony that our worthy predecessors suffered so much for. Beulah Sansom expressed an apprehension, that this and other of Friends' precious testimonies will not be suffered to fall to the ground, but if we are not faithful, the call will be extended to the highways and hedges. Her declaration was strong, impressive and clear, carrying evidence of its being the language of Truth."

To her son.

No date.

"I have a pitiful idea of the man who never reads in the Sacred volume with serious attention; let his appearance in the world be what it may. If he has the opportunity so to do, and neglects it, he must be greatly wanting. I feel very solicitous that my children may not be formal professors of a spiritual religion, but that they may earnestly covet the best gifts, even the gift of Grace."

To one of her children.

"I have much love for those dear girls, and greatly desire they may experience an advancement in best things; which cannot be done till there is a yielding to the inward call of heavenly love, and submitting more and more to the cross. As regards the article of dress thou mentioned, my sense is this; that when we feel some little ability to close in with the offers of

Divine love, any little thing that seems in our way is a hindrance to this call; it keeps back; keeps us with the world, and in the ways thereof, and we cannot get on until it is removed."

To the same.

"9th mo. 6th, 1833.

"This date seems to speak. It is this day nineteen years ago, since your dear father was with us last; a day not to be forgotten. Looking back, I find that five of our dear Friends who were then present, and deeply interested in the scene before us, have since deceased also. It is profitable to consider that we do pass away, and the place that has known us shall know us no more; that it is important to be prepared for the change, which I trust was the case with them, through deep suffering, both of body and mind." * * *

To her son.

"Amidst perplexity and difficulty, and various vexations, and unlooked for besetments, remember to keep collected, and rather silent than otherwise, looking inward. We are all weak and poor, and easily tempted.

"Do not try in any place or company to be fine. Better pass for a plain, unassuming person. Be willing to wear the cross; bind it as a garment about thee; it will keep thee often from harm.

"The day, I believe, has fully come for our young men and women to show on whose side they are; to seek for strength to walk in the path pointed out in moments of favor, when the good Spirit of Truth

has opened the understanding into the good and right way. It may, in some weak moments, feel a cross, and in some company; but that sort of company is no help, but a hindrance, and the sooner the better it is left; in room thereof, choose some older and more settled than thyself, and strength will increase. Keep thy eye single, and I feel assured a blessing is in store for thee."

To her brother, Benjamin.

"Patience, as it is abode in, fortifies the mind, so that it can bear almost any thing; but when it is not abode in, trouble weakens the mind, and it can hardly bear anything. I find myself closely beset, and it is true enough that the enemy, whom we hear spoken of, is unwearied. If we become not a wreck, it will be by fleeing to the stronghold. As far as I am capable, I feel for thee in thy varied trials. Endeavor to bear up under them with as much cheerfulness as possible. I have no doubt, as faith and patience are abode in, thou wilt be brought through, and enabled to sit down in the end with comfort. Do not look for great things: be humble and contented.

"The account of —— was new and interesting. I could but desire his time and talents were devoted to the welfare of Society. How help is wanted! So few 'Young men, princes of the provinces,' come forward to order the battle, that when the fathers are removed, I fear in many places we shall not see the sons. If the call or invitation to the children of this people is not obeyed, others from the highways and hedges will

come in, so that the precious testimonies given us to bear shall not fall; and our crowns will go to those."

"3rd mo. 30th, 1834.

"I think it right, to give a little account of the sickness and death of my dear parents, Jacob and Mary Albertson; who departed this life at their residence in Plymouth township, Montgomery County, State of Pennsylvania."

"Departed this life, 29th of 11th mo., 1825, my dear mother, Mary Albertson, in the 73rd year of her age, after an afflictive dispensation of a year's continuance. Her bodily strength gradually declined, and her flesh wasted, yet was cheerful and easy in her spirit, particularly the latter part of her time, and would often say, 'She was much favored, that she could rest in her bed;' being mostly free from pain. Her strength being exhausted, a difficulty of speaking followed, she became silent, though appeared sensible, breathing shorter and harder until the little wick of life was spent: her close was about nine o'clock on Third-day evening, the date above, and was interred in Friends' burial ground, at Plymouth, attended by many Friends and relations, after which a good meeting was held. She was to us a kind mother: my heart is tendered in the remembrance of her many cares and concerns for us, her children, which rather increased than diminished in the latter years of her life. Her care of me when young is sealed in my heart, where I have a testimony to bear, to the good effect of early religious care: my desire was strong to be like those of my age, in dress,

&c., to which she yielded not, but endeavored to strengthen my mind against the remarks of those who lightly esteemed these things. Our parents were careful at all times to take us to religious meetings, * * * that I have hoped we may remember this pious care extended to us, and not be slack in endeavoring to do our duty to our children, and those under our care, which, with the Divine blessing, may be to them better than riches, and they have cause, as I have this day, to be thankful for our care. HANNAH WILLIAMS."

"Departed this life, the 10th of 10th mo., 1833, my dear father, Jacob Albertson, aged nearly 78 years; and was interred in Friends' burying ground at Plymouth.

"He possessed a good constitution, but a slender frame; of great spirits and resolution, very active and industrious. * * * As he advanced in life his mind became more loosened from the things of time. He was not only remarkable for piety, but humility, self-denial and benevolence: all his fellow-beings in any affliction, either outwardly or mentally, claimed his attention; as far as he could, sparing neither time, money nor pains, to serve them; we his children have need to be instructed by his example. His sight failed so much, that for several years before his death, he could not see to read, in which he had taken delight, and mostly in the Scriptures, but his memory served him, and often, very often, quoted passages and applied them judiciously. The welfare of his children and grand-children was very dear to him; he evinced it in many ways. * * * Encouraged us to be diligent

in the attendance of our religious meetings; and 'do,' he says, 'take care of the children.'

"For several months previous to his last indisposition, he appeared in a state of waiting; not looking or expecting to be long here; not unfrequently alluding to that period, and in recounting the mercies and tender dealings of the Lord with his soul, would be tendered even to tears: Ah! my impression is, he has indeed, 'washed his robe and made it white in the blood of the Lamb;' and was finally admitted, through much suffering and in great mercy, into that kingdom whose inhabitants no more say they are sick. H. W."

To ———.

"It is very desirable to keep the little folks out of harm's way; the world abounds with much that children had better not see or hear; this we cannot always help, so the antidote must be resorted to, to help their minds, and to fortify them for what they, in their day, must oppose."

To her son.

"1834.

"To stem the current of custom, requires firmness. Good customs we may follow, but evil customs and fashions we ought not to submit to. It may possibly not hurt us, but example is powerful, and it may hurt a weak brother. This consideration has had more place with me, in regard to little matters relating to my dress, than any other. I seem to feel that I should be accountable for what liberties others might take on

my account. Thou may treasure up this hint; it may apply in many little things. Fenelon says, 'Little things are little things, but to be faithful in little things, is something great.' I have one thing more I want to say, reflect, my dear son, on the great importance of attending religious meetings. Be not a formal attender, but let thy mind be impressed with a sense of the solemn duty, when assembled for the worship of Him from whom we receive all we have. Our time here is short, and we need be industrious; preparing for a never-ending state."

The following letter, is addressed to one who was not a member of our Society.

"2nd mo., 1835.

* * * * "Now I come to a part of thy letter which ought to be answered to thy satisfaction and information, yet my ability is not much for opening and explaining these things, being given to believe from the first opening of my understanding in matters relative to the peculiarities of our Society, that my business was more to endeavor to example well in these things, than to say much about them. Thou says, 'I really feel sorry that the young women amongst Friends, do not do a little [for the instruction of heathen children, &c.], while those of other Societies are doing so much. There is a Society organized here (in China), by a number of ladies whom I consider among the excellent of the earth.'

"The words, 'Really sorry,' induced the desire that some explanation should be given, believing truly they

were not mere words of course, but sincerely felt. We believe, and are even assured, there are sincere and pious people in other religious Societies, who, in their way, not only worship acceptably, but whose labors for the good of souls have been greatly blessed, and who in the end will receive the answer of 'Well done,' &c. We believe also, that such amongst Friends who live consistently with their profession, find themselves called upon to bear peculiar testimonies, among which are plainness of speech, plainness of behavior and apparel, calling persons by their proper names, avoiding the honor of the hat, &c., &c. These peculiarities are in the cross to the unregenerated nature, we must naturally know. Hence a temptation would be presented to our junior members, and those not firmly established, to shun the cross, and thereby bring weakness over themselves, a shade on their profession, and cause the way of truth to be evilly spoken of. For these reasons Friends do not encourage their members to unite with others in their different associations for benevolent and useful purposes.

"And in our religious assemblies, *the rightly exercised* wait reverently upon God, who by the teachings of the spirit of His Son manifested in the secret of the heart in the silence of all flesh, not only instructs how to worship the Father, but how to pray, when to pray, and what to pray for. These blessed results are found by those who live up to their profession; would it were the case with all under our name. Silent introversion of mind is much inculcated, believing great safety is in it.

"The associations of others are not unfrequently opened by vocal prayer. This again would stumble one of us, not being prepared as the above reason will show, to join rightly in a prayer previously concerted; and by not yielding to so solemn a call, it would be an offence to those with whom they might be associated. For these and many other reasons, we have mostly declined uniting our efforts with others. H. W."

"Yearly Meeting of 1835. Attended the select Yearly Meeting. Our dear Friend, Sarah Emlen, opened in an interesting manner, a prospect of visiting the meetings of Friends in Great Britain and Ireland. After calm and solid deliberation, the way did not open to resign her to that service at this time; though acknowledgment was made by divers worthy Friends of their unity with her therein, and a belief of its having a right origin. The subject was handled very tenderly and feelingly, and she retained, with her concern, in the bosom of the church; which to me was very consoling and soothing. I have but little doubt she feels it so, and that sweet peace is her attendant. A minute was made accordingly.

"First-day morning, attended Arch Street meeting: a full house. Our dear Friend, —— ——, was lively and interesting in testimony; enabled to bring forth out of the treasury that which is both ancient and new. I can truly say it was reviving to my discouraged mind, to feel life stir in the assemblies of the people: am often ready to say 'How are we spoiled!'

"In the afternoon, accompanied by my children,

attended Orange Street meeting. It was a silent meeting. Several were present who had come with minutes to attend this Yearly Meeting; also our Friends, Christopher Healy, Robert Scotten, and other worthies, who are members of that Particular Meeting. Silence, though often a hard lesson to the creature, is a very useful one; and it is instructive to witness this thing abode in, in a chastened, patient feeling, when there is no opening, even though endowed with excellent gifts, owned by their friends, and knowing as they must, that in a large meeting many wait anxiously looking for words; who love to hear the gospel sound,—being more ready to hear than obey.

"Third-day morning was taken up with the reading of the first five Queries, with the answers, and the consideration of them. A favor highly to be prized, that counsel and caution, faithful warning, and likewise encouragement to the rightly exercised, should again be furnished in a weighty manner, tending to solemnize the meeting, and to prove that the love of the great Shepherd is still towards us as a Society.

"The exhibition of weakness in many particulars, as represented in the reports from the different Quarters, seemed awhile to cast a shade of dismay, and some were ready to say: 'What can be done that has not been done, or said that has not been said!' By dwelling under the exercise, many were enabled to touch on these weaknesses. Dear Hannah Hartshorne, in a lively manner, on the neglect of week-day meetings. She used the language 'Pray and not faint. Let our intercessions ascend, that He who sees us as we are,

would graciously condescend to beget in the heart a right concern for our own welfare.' Friends were desired to extend faithful private care towards such, and that as ability was afforded, we might *desire* for them. It was weightily and feelingly handed forth.

"Large provision at burials was likewise an exercise, so many being entertained at the house, &c. Elizabeth Evans, in a weighty manner, expressed an apprehension that not a few amongst us were in danger of being insidiously made to believe by the grand deceiver, that this was a day wherein liberty was more allowed in many things, than was first cast up by the Author of the straight and narrow way; even a broader way; that it was not necessary in this enlightened day to be so scrupulously careful about so many small matters, as some might think them, but which, as a people, we have felt bound by the spirit of Truth to maintain. Sarah Emlen had a similar exercise.

"In the afternoon the remaining Queries and answers were read and considered. Some excellent counsel was given by our ancient friend, M. Philips, respecting living within our means; not to go in debt for anything to put in our houses, on our persons, or on our tables; a most salutary hint.

"——— was then called forth on account of such as do live within the bounds of their circumstances, thinking as they fulfil the discipline, they are doing right, and yet the limitations of truth not regarded. Her expressions were 'Not bound by the girdle of the Spirit of Truth, but expanding their desires because they have the means; broadening the way.' Her words,

which spoke her exercise, were close and very searching; and it would be greatly to the furtherance of the cause of Truth, if Friends who are thus able, and thus disposed to extend their borders, would duly and very seriously consider.

"At our afternoon sitting on Fourth-day, a lengthy and interesting Epistle, addressed by our Meeting for Sufferings, to that of London, was brought in by men Friends, and read by our clerks. Our Friend, Jonathan Evans, opened the subject, expressing the exercise and concern of their meeting, and that many Friends had been concerned lest the enemy of all good would make inroads amongst us in different ways, through the spirit of the world, over-reaching and allowing greater liberties than Truth prescribes; but more especially it was feared there was a departure from the gospel ground of our profession, the doctrine of the Light of Christ within."

H. Williams concludes her account of this Yearly Meeting thus: "I think we have reason to rejoice and be very thankful, in that the Great Head of the Church was pleased from sitting to sitting to own us with his presence, and endue his servants with strength and ability to minister to the wants of the church."

To her son.

"I want thee to be very careful of thy company and conversation. Nothing is more true than that 'Evil communications corrupt good manners.' Do not contract the habits and manners of those who are out of the Truth; the fashionable habits of the people of the

world; but ever remember that the Society of Friends are a plain people, and *that* too for the best reason, even because our Lord and Master was plain. He was meek and low; and as He dwells by his spirit in our hearts, He leads and guides his followers into plainness and simplicity in dress and address. It is the very result of a faithful attention to the light of Christ. All the riches and grandeur in the world will do nothing for us; but there are riches that will endure, and I do crave thou may possess them. My heart yearns for thee."

To the same.

"5th mo., 1835.

"I feel concerned thee may not be ashamed of a plain appearance, plain in every sense. I know temptations present; keep thy mind inward, and thy eye on the Lord, who will regard the concern of His children. Do be very sincere in thy desires, and He will bestow grace and furnish strength for every occasion. Do not let the enemy gain strength."

"4th mo., 1836. To omit preserving some notes of the present Yearly Meeting, would seem to myself neglectful. But for the hope that recurring and dwelling on the subjects revived, might strengthen my inner man, and encourage still to look towards His holy temple, and trust in His mercy, although discouragements and dismay had pervaded the mind, conflicts and close besetments from within and without, of long duration, having assailed."

Of the account of this Yearly Meeting, we shall only take a few extracts.

"On First-day morning, I attended Twelfth Street meeting. I felt that it was a great loss to a meeting, to have communications not exactly savory and lively. The afternoon meeting, at the same place, was a good one: the silent part very solemn. Our Friend, Christopher Healy, appeared in a solemn manner, with the call of the angel to the church, 'Except thou repent, I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of its place.' Applicable, it appeared to him, to each individual.

"On Second-day morning, the business of the Yearly Meeting opened. In the early part of the sitting, our dear Friend, Elizabeth Evans, was favored to entreat the great Head of the Church, for those who were under pressure of various difficulties and fears, for strength to trust in his power. Also, various classes were brought into remembrance. It was relieving, and cause of gratitude thus to be favored."

Of the sittings on Third-day, wherein the Queries and answers were read, she says:—"In the ability which seemed once more in mercy afforded, labor was bestowed to stir up Friends to faithfulness in the discharge of their various duties. It is a great favor that there is yet preserved amongst us, Friends of quick sense concerning the state of the Church, and endowed by the Great Head thereof with gifts to minister to its need. And oh, may we also, in our lesser offices, be faithful, so as to be clear in the great day of account.

"At the afternoon sitting on Third-day, we were furnished with an Epistle from the Meeting for Sufferings in London, addressed to the Meeting for Sufferings in Philadelphia, dated in the Twelfth month last; and the reply thereto from the latter meeting; an excellent document—embracing the causes of fear, on account of various stratagems of the unwearied enemy of all good, which are now afloat in our Society, and likely to draw down many who have shone as stars of the first magnitude; turning from the Light of Christ inwardly revealed in the secret of the heart, and going back into bondage, into the activity of the creature, *out* of which early Friends were called, and so faithfully maintained their testimony against joining in with the world.

"Many valued Friends, at different periods in the course of *this* week, were, in a very solemn manner, engaged to call the attention of the meeting to the state of our Society, believing further trials awaited. The travail of the faithful in this day, is deep and painful: they can take but little pleasant bread."

To her son.

"1837.

"I remain lively in concern for thy present and everlasting good. Now while young, try to find the true foundation, on which if any build, all the storms and tempests of time must beat in vain. There are, even in this day of trial, those who build on such a foundation. By their fruits we shall know them: all who keep their places in the Truth, shall speak one

language, and they know one another in the hidden life. I do greatly long that Friends, both old and young, may come to know a deepening in the root; then all their words and actions, will bear the stamp of Truth. This is the tree which is known by its good fruit. There is a tree also that is known by its bringing forth evil fruit. So let us be wise, be considerate, be very much retired in our feelings before our heavenly Father, and I believe He will keep us in all trials, and direct us in all our movements. When that is the case, His blessing will rest on us, and on our labors. I feel very desirous thou mayst come more and more to set the Lord before thine eyes always, that He may direct thy steps; even so may it be, saith my soul."

To a brother.

Date omitted.

"Our afflicted brother is a little better. It is a great and heavy affliction; may we all bear a part, and as near as possible for humanity to do, make the case our own; so that some solid benefit may accrue to us; for we are all greatly wanting in coming up to the right standard."

To the same.

No date.

"I write to inform of the decease of our young friend, E. M. * * * He has had a larger share of bodily suffering than often attends that complaint, and much fewer of the consolations that every poor soul would covet in their last days, but I feel a humble

hope that He who does not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men, has regarded him, and had mercy on his soul. He said little, but gave evidence he was aware of his situation. My feelings, which had been more than usually turned towards him during his confinement, seemed to *settle* on hearing of his death. Since then my concern is for us who are left to contend a little longer with the probations of time. Our common adversary is seeking whom he may devour; whether we shall all faithfully keep the watch, I know not. You will think by my writing it is a low time with me. Well, so it is; and what is it that can make it any other? Nothing but the presence of the Bridegroom of souls. * * *

"J. is about to return to the city. My mind feels drawn to look at my city friends. I would be glad to sit down with you at Arch Street house, in a meeting capacity. It would, I am pretty sure, be so quiet and so good! Ah, these are precious privileges,—to be drawn into a solemn feeling of quiet in a religious meeting; a good with which a stranger cannot intermeddle."

In the account of the Yearly Meeting of 1837, she says: "Treating with offenders as the Discipline directs, in the spirit of meekness and wisdom, in order for their help, was recommended in a feeling manner by our aged Friend, Hannah Gibbons. She also addressed the young women, inviting them to forsake the pleasures and gratifications of a vain world, and not to 'Pursue lying vanities. Such forsake their own mercies.'

"Beulah Sansom was exercised for those, who, out of sight of their parents, would put on something they would not be willing they should see, and hide the volume they ought not to read.

"Our dear Friend Mary Wistar, mentioned that young persons were apt to think deviations in dress, &c., little things. She called the attention of mothers to the subject, and she believed overseers ought also to extend care to such. Just at the close of the meeting, the young women were very feelingly addressed; it seemed indeed, that we had 'Line upon line, precept upon precept.'

"During our sittings on Sixth-day, feeling addresses from several dear Friends flowed to the youth, and to those further advanced. Beulah Sansom alluded again to the concern of carefully attending religious meetings. The fruits and testimony of age and well tried experience were before us, showing it is good to trust in the Lord, and to wait often upon Him, both in meetings, and in retirement at other times."

To one of her children.

"5th mo., 1837.

"I hope my child, thou and others, may not forget the earnest affectionate gospel call extended to you at our Quarterly Meeting. You will be more accountable than if not permitted to be there. It was one more favor, added to many others—a singular favor."

To her brother, B. A.

"1839.

"It seems our heavenly Father still remembers

us, and is yet willing to dig about us. Our Friend Christopher Healy, has been liberated to visit the families of our Monthly Meeting of Gwynedd, and also the meetings of Abington and Bucks Quarters: and as I believe him to be an honest Friend, he will find rubbish to remove. He attended our Monthly Meeting on Fifth-day last; and from his communication, I should say, he sat where *we* sat. Our state was plainly pointed out. I could fain hope some fruit may appear. Have feared the sentence, 'Cut it down, why cumbereth it the ground?' would yet rest upon us here."

To E. R.

"12th mo., 1839.

"I received and read thy lines, dear E., with satisfaction and instruction; would be glad to make a suitable return. But there is such a sense of want of any capacity to write, constantly abiding with me, that it discourages. Love for my friends seems the only link that connects me to them, and this I can feel strong. * * I was well pleased that our Friend R. Scotton had visited you. His company and conversation are strengthening and instructive. He attended our last Monthly Meeting, and seemed much exercised therein. Rising the second time, he said, he believed the time was coming, that as regards our Society, not the earth only, but also the heavens would be shaken. The prospect of another woe, after what has already passed, causes fear and dismay. But let it drive us to our tents, where no divination can prevail. Though discouragements seem at times to arise, yet, to remem-

ber our Captain never was foiled in battle, and that his faithful followers have many comfortable promises, does this moment a little inspirit thy poor friend. May thou and I be so kept during the remainder of our afflictive, besetting and close proving pilgrimage, both within and without, that at last we may be accounted worthy to receive the blessed invitation, 'Come, ye blessed of my Father,' &c., is the sincere desire of one, who, though in company, travels a lonely path."

To her son.

"Thou art often, dear child, the subject of my thoughts, with solicitude for thy preservation through the temptations and snares, which thickly beset and waylay the path of the young. These are not imaginary, but they are realities, and the want of experience makes the young less fearful of them than their older friends are; though that is the very reason why they should be the more watchful. Giddy, laughing, talkative company, keep out of the way of. Steady and instructive young persons, that have religion in the heart and not in the head, will be worthy of notice; and such I would have thee seek: remembering always to prepare thyself for such, by steady conduct, joined with industrious habits. I trust these remarks are not new to thee, and that they will be agreeable to thy own judgment and good sense; yet, to be as a watchword I pen them. Many eyes are upon thee; thy commercial friends in their line are watching; thy young acquaintance do not forget thee, and thy more elderly friends, thy father and mother's friends, eye thee, and will be

disappointed if fruits do not appear answerable to thy opportunities through life thus far. Thy heavenly Father has bestowed upon thee a susceptible mind, quick of feeling as to right and wrong; live near to this feeling and principle in all thy movements; in thy business, and thy intercourse with the people of every description thou hast to be among. It will lead thee safely along, and prepare thee, through the mercy of our heavenly Father, to land safely at last in the realms of the blessed.

"Seek to be as often as convenient, in the company of our best elderly Friends; there is great strength to be derived from the company of such. Some young people do not like the company of elderly Friends; they feel under restraint. But were they to accustom themselves to this, the restraint would wear off, and it would be more and more pleasant and desirable. I love to see young persons fond of their elder Friends; it is a good sign."

To a Friend.

No date. "I fear the enemy will get in if we are not careful to draw near together, and every day, and all day do the things that make for peace. This dumb feeling that will not let us speak a word, that winds us up closely in our own web, and makes us so busy and so careworn, that social feelings have to give way to a headlong press of business, if I am not mistaken, if we give way to it, our religious sensibility will be blunted, and leanness sent into our souls. A poor, meagre repast as to spiritual food will often be our

portion, even in meetings, and while careful to retain the form, the life will be wanting. I fear this is too much my own case; if yours, let us rise up against it, and do better; be humble and willing to search out the cause."

To one under discouragement.

"Dear ———, I have thought much about thee at times since seeing thee at ———. My impression then was, 'Thou hast compassed this mountain long enough;' that exertion must be made while the day lasteth, to come out of that gloom. I felt sorry, and have carried thee in painful remembrance. Now do beg, even if the ability is small like that of the Publican, who could not even raise his eyes to heaven, that mercy may be granted, and thy eyes anointed to see things in the true light; not men as trees walking. The same power who gave sight to the blind, can help thee, and as rightly sought unto, will help thee, and soften thy feelings with His tendering, endearing love; which will draw thee near to thy Great Helper, and to all who dwell in the Truth. That which separates and divides from the living seed will have no entrance. I believe thou hast tried to love thy friends, but a secret feeling, not right, has place. I do believe thou may be delivered from it, if in earnest thou throw aside and keep out thoughts which led thee first into this trying path, and come humbly to the feet of our dear Lord, who 'Knoweth our frame, and remembereth we are dust;' and who, on sincere repentance, pities and

forgives, heals and restores, so that true peace, which thou hast not lately enjoyed, may flow as a river.

"In near feeling, and with earnest desires for thy preservation, I remain thy sincere friend,

H. W."

To ———.

"Thou art so much in my remembrance, dear ——, that I do not know what better to do than to write and say what is on my mind. If I feel easier afterwards, there will be something gained to myself; and I trust if thou even thinks it beside my business, thou wilt excuse me.

"On inquiring for thee lately, I was informed of thy discouraged and tried state, and what it was owing to. It caused me to enter farther into the subject than just hearing the matter. I have been truly concerned for fear thou might be tempted to give back. O, I have felt alarmed at the thought. What! now at this time of day, and in this crisis of society matters, to draw off from the Meeting for Sufferings!

"Better cry mightily for Best Help to lay low and near the Fountain. The waves will pass over, if thou keep low enough, not letting in the reasoner, who fills the mind with a slavish feeling, and with jealousies; but he was a liar from the beginning, and cares not so he can hinder the Lord's work in any. My sense is, thou would pursue an even, straightforward course, unless there is more cause than I have been informed of. The Truth is dignified, and it is very precious; those who keep their places are not to be turned about

and displaced, nor displace themselves for nought. There is an order in the Truth, and to such as live in it, and keep in it, the places assigned to them in Best Wisdom cannot be hurt materially. I hope thou wilt hold on as usual; and mayst thou always be found worthy of a place there."

To a cousin.

"It is little we can do one for another, but if only we can stir up the pure mind by way of remembrance, it is something. I have often had thee in mind latterly, and as thou and I are near of an age, and pretty well advanced, of course wearing out, I feel, and expect thou dost also, that it is time to be concerned for ourselves in that work which we must do for ourselves, if it ever gets done, even the working out of our soul's salvation with fear and trembling; and it is wise to avail ourselves of every opportunity of being helped on in this work. I have had a fear thou hast too often been missing from your meetings. I have made no enquiry, for to hear it is so, would add to my trouble. Do now, my dear friend, gather up and attend all thy meetings; surmount difficulties, lead the way, and who knows the effect of care in this respect on thy family. I have no doubt it would yield peace, and prove a quiet rest. There is help and comfort in going to meetings with a serious intent. Sometimes He whom we seek, suddenly comes to His temple; which is the heart, and in a moment, as it were, we are refreshed."

Yearly Meeting of 1840.

"Fourth mo. 1840. First-day morning attended Arch Street Meeting; a large and quiet gathering. There was a communication from Benjamin Hoyle, of Ohio, particularly adapted to our need in this day. In the afternoon at the same place, we had a large solid meeting, and but little communication. How good it is, not only in our individual capacity, but also in our little meetings at home, as well as in these large Yearly Meetings, to feed on the living substance in solemn silence. It is only when preaching is from the fresh spring of life, that the heritage is refreshed.

"Third-day morning, went through with all the Queries and answers. A living exercise was felt, under which much excellent counsel was given. Friends were recommended to get down to the principle of love and life, and labor to keep there in a lowly, humble state, then no root of bitterness could spring up. A travail was felt, that we might be in possession of the excellent principles we profess, without which we would be in a worse condition than if we had never known these things. Mildred Ratcliff was led to speak very extraordinarily. She said she could see as plainly as she could see us with her outward eyes, that the cunning enemy had laid traps for this people: that they were thickly spread about us; but were so hidden and so artfully covered, that if we were not very watchful, we should be caught on one hand or the other; that they were laid for the goodly members of this Society. The 'Watch,' was recommended as the only way to be kept from the enemy's traps; said he was trans-

formed also into an angel of light, and in that garb, more to be feared than in any other way. The communication spread a solemn feeling over many of us; may we all be watchful. I have had a fear that this awakening warning will not be noticed as it ought. I do believe it was from Best Authority, and in mercy given through this faithful servant, now near her journey's end; she being old and feeble.

"As regards the lack of unity, shown by the answers to that Query, dear Ellen McCarty, in a lively manner did beseech us, individually to be willing to make a search, that if we felt we had lost any thing, we might diligently sweep our house; though we might have 'nine pieces,' yet one being missing, it was needful the 'search' should be made.

"We were favored at this Yearly Meeting, with the overshadowing wing of Ancient Goodness, and I believe the good cause was strengthened thereby, however unworthy we are of such a favor.

To her brother, B.

"5th mo., 1840.

"This morning we heard of the close of our dear Friend, Alice Comfort. It was quiet and peaceful, and the work done: a favor beyond any thing else in this world. I attended the funeral. Alice Knight spoke at the house, respecting our living the life of the righteous, that our last end might be like his. Ezra Comfort, was also engaged in testimony, with an earnest concern that all might be prepared for the kingdom, by building on the sure foundation, &c.

Hannah Rhoads was engaged at the grave with an *honest call;* indeed I think she will return with her penny, for I believe she delivered faithfully that she had in charge; I did feel for her very much."

To a daughter at Westtown.

"Thomas Kite's concern for you, as expressed in the opportunity with the teachers at Westtown, was relieving and very satisfactory to me. The advice was good and sound, and adapted to the stations you hold. It reminded me of the concern of some who have gone before, to the teachers there, which I believe was blessed to them. I do want the right thing kept alive, with all the caretakers of that school, from the committee to the least in charge. As this is the case it will be blessed.

* * * "Try to enjoy thy meetings. Do not be thinking 'How young you all are to be placed before the children.' You are old enough, and if careful to seek Best Help, it will be found, and strength too, in the needful time. I have been greatly comforted and encouraged in my late visit to the school. May all who have the care, unite in endeavoring to live so near the Source of life, as to be able to help the good seed to grow in the hearts of the children, like giving 'Bread' when they ask it—not a 'Stone.' The charge to Peter was, 'Feed my lambs.' We may not all be called as Peter was; there are other ways in which the little ones are fed and nourished. Children are quick-sighted, and a good example is loud preaching.

"It is wrong, I think, to have too little conceit of

our abilities; it rather further disqualifies. When a little help is needed, it is a mark of humility to ask for instruction. Pride would rather conceal its needs, and so go blundering on. Those who are sincerely desirous to do right, will not be suffered to do wrong; so dear Samuel Smith, of Philadelphia, once told me when I was in a strait."

To ———.

"11th mo., 1840.

"There are just now, many poor afflicted people in this neighborhood, whom, were I able, I would be glad to visit, and see if I could be helpful to them. Not one of the least, is our poor neighbor ———, mourning over the fate of her naughty son; more, I fear, than over his wickedness. She too, is much to be pitied. True it is, 'Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge.' It seems plainer and plainer to me, that a great responsibility rests upon parents, rightly to discharge their duty to their offspring, while young and under their control, so as to be clear from their blood in the day of account. It never felt to me so awful, as since these things have been passing."

To one of her children.

"3rd mo. 2nd, 1841.

"After thou and the rest of our company were gone, we passed rather a lonely day; the scenes [death of a relative] which had been passing for the last two or three days, were calculated to cause a reflecting mind

to look into its own state; in which endeavor I felt desirous to be helped; that the midnight cry might not find me unprepared. Thou wilt doubtless be interested in hearing of our meeting last First-day; about the middle of the time of meeting, ——— arose, and very deliberately repeated the text, 'Whosoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father and the holy angels;' she added a little more; the meeting was very still; when Ezra Comfort arose, and opened the travail of spiritual Israel from the land of bondage to the promised land, comparing the outward travel to that of the true spiritual Israel, of which it is indeed a just figure. He mentioned particularly their want of bread, and their crying to Moses; their being fed by bread immediately from heaven, and that not to be found when they pleased, but when the Lord pleased, in His own time. Their travel also, he alluded to, through Jordan, before entering Canaan; from the very bottom of which they were enabled to bring up stones of memorial.

"What may come of this dear child, and her offering, I know not; but it felt solemn to me, and savored of a good beginning. May she keep quiet now and low, (not too low, for there is a possibility of getting below the Witness of truth,) and look steadily to the Lord for help, who is ever merciful and compassionate, requiring no more than He will give ability to perform. I have felt much for the children in many places, in the present day, and my faith is, there will be a revival in our poor Society, through their willing-

ness to bow to the yoke and work of Christ. I have felt near unity with the spirit and temperament of dear ———, and believed she lived near the truth, but *this* I had not looked for; it was hid from me, and may be best so, that such exercises do better to be hidden, for sometimes the work is marred by man, and the exercise lightened before the Lord's time. I would have all this way concerned to be very patient, keep their 'eye single, then their whole body will be full of light.' It is the Lord's work, and He knows best how, and when, and where, and what to say and move in."

To the same.

"On Fifth-day was our Monthly Meeting; I thought it a solid meeting. A committee was appointed to unite with men Friends, on account of the several weighty and important matters contained in the 'Extracts,' as having occasioned exercise in Yearly Meeting, and by that meeting recommended to the care of Subordinate Meetings. It seemed a weighty subject when opened by men Friends in our meeting; after which dear ——— kneeled, and, in a very solemn and lively manner, entreated vocally, 'that the hands of the burden-bearers, that were ready to hang down through weakness, and the knees that were ready to smite together, might be strengthened, and that the young, even those who have not yielded their hearts to serve Thee, O Lord, might be reached unto.'

"Oh, may she be kept, is my prayer: she seems to

have given up, so far, all; and is following a meek and crucified Saviour."

To one of her brothers.

"How desirable that our Society may be kept so pure, so sound and discerning, as to judge according to the judgment of Truth. He with whom we have to do, is able and willing as ever He was. What then is wanting but humility and faithfulness on our part. We are advancing on in life; and our journey drawing nearer towards a period; that we may be wise and improve, is my earnest concern."

To the same.

"I thought we had a solid good meeting to-day. Ezra Comfort was engaged to describe the church militant, such as obey the voice of the true Shepherd, and obey not nor follow the stranger. These were they of every nation, kindred, tongue and people, who make up or compose the church triumphant. He opened the subject clearly and plainly, that it was no matter what we might profess, if we did not really obey the voice, for *all* have heard. 'The grace of God that bringeth salvation, hath appeared unto all men.'

To a brother.

"I feel the cares of my friends, and their afflictions mine. A care rests upon me according to my little measure, for our meeting and its concerns, which I fear will suffer in our hands. I often look back to those who were here in our places, their zeal and faith-

fulness. The prospect is now discouraging, yet that is not the way to do,—'Look back.' How often are we told, and do we not know of a truth, that 'Help is laid on One that is mighty.' So thou and I must gird up the loins of our minds, 'Watch and be sober,' and hope to the end.

"But then how we are annoyed by the unwearied adversary, seeking every moment when we are weak, to devour and destroy. It takes so long to regain our feet, and come up to the ground we have lost, and to feel ourselves restored, that our slips and misses keep down all self exaltation."

To the same.

"8th mo., 1841.

"At our Preparative Meeting, we had a little company indeed, several having gone to the funeral of John Comfort, of Solebury. One is removed here and another there; do we think enough about it? That our time will come ere long, is most certain. I desire we all should settle our own outward affairs while in health, and have the mind so released from care, anxious, perplexing care, that it may prepare for its never-ending state. Let us do the best we can and try to be ready as we go along; remove the daily rubbish—press through—in great mercy we may be accepted."

To the same.

"We hear our Friend, Jacob Green, has a prospect of being at our Monthly Meeting. It feels encouraging

to be remembered in this way. Want, and not abounding, has been our feelings at this place of latter times, I think. May we be content with such food as is convenient for us, and be more concerned to be found among the number who are accounted worthy to suffer for the good cause, than to 'Fare sumptuously every day."

To a brother.

"Thou art often present in my remembrance with near affectionate feeling, desiring, though out of sight as we may be, that at last we may be found standing in our lots. Great strippedness has been my portion, which I have endeavored silently to bear, and not now do I wish to complain. It is all good enough for one who has so often sat at the King's table, and gone away, I fear, without sufficient gratitude. Thou hast heard, no doubt, of the decease of our dear Friend Daniel Wheeler. For him indeed we might rejoice. But his labors have seemed to be unexpectedly ended. The clothing of my spirit was that of sadness, for some time after hearing the account."

To one under affliction.

"It is not for want of near feeling with thee under a late proving dispensation, that I have not visited thee with a few lines, but from a feeling of inability to touch the tender subject and not hurt. I thought better to leave thee in the hands of Him whose wisdom is unsearchable, and his ways a great deep; desiring thou mayst be enabled, though hard to flesh and blood, to say 'Thy will be done.'

"We must, dear child, come to this. It seems to me the spirit is willing, but the flesh weak, even now. May He who comforts his people every where, and under all circumstances, those who look to Him, comfort thee and sustain thee by day and by night, and give thee to believe all things will work together for good."

H. W. kept, as she was accustomed to do, some account of the Yearly Meeting of 1841, in concluding which, she says: "A solid weighty feeling, and lively exercise of mind were maintained to the last, and it may be truly said, we had a favored meeting. When all keep their places, and dwell down to the root of life in themselves, so large a body moves on with the various concerns that come before it, harmoniously and safely, their labor is to the honor of the Great Name, and to the help of His cause."

To one of her daughters.

"5th mo., 1841.

"At our Quarterly Meeting, we had the company of Joseph Whitall and C. Healy. Both were very encouraging and clear in their sense that all would work together for good, to those who keep their places; saying, that the favor of the Lord was towards this people, notwithstanding what they had passed through, were passing through, and might have to pass through: that the Lord's covenant with his people should not fail, but there would be those preserved who would stand for his testimonies and truth upon earth. The

substance of this and much more, was expressed in the Select Meeting; and in the Quarterly Meeting, on Fifth-day, a close, searching testimony went forth, to the necessity of bearing our cross to the customs and fashions of the world, even in little things. As much peace is found in being faithful to manifested duty in some little matters, as in greater. It always does me good to find Friends religiously concerned to recommend a care in little matters of dress and address; as a neglect of it, and a departure from it, does lead by little and little out of the way, and the heart becomes more and more callous, when it should be tender and susceptible of good feelings and impressions.

"Christopher's communication in the first meeting, was too remarkable to be lost. He said he had heard a voice distinctly to say, 'There is fire enough yet to light the candle, and if there is fire enough to light the candle, why the house might yet be swept, and the lost piece of silver found: a word to the wise is sufficient.' Having said this he sat down, but shortly rose again, and said he could not get rid of the subject; that if, through neglect or carelessness, the fire should be suffered to go out, the candle could not be lighted, the house could not be swept, nor the lost silver found. He did wish Friends encouraged to see to it. C. also came into our meeting for business, and was very earnest we should be ready, even the young, with the great work, the preparation for another state. May the concern have due weight on our minds."

To the same.

"6th mo.

"Paid a visit to the city, and called on a number of dear friends. If in these calls and interviews we have not the good of one another at heart, so as not to offend the witness for Truth, we had better be shut up at home.

"Ah, we are poor things, and it requires close watching to keep near the Guide, over rough and vexatious places, in our journey through time."

To the same.

"8th mo.

"I have felt for a long time, as if this going hither and thither, with little or no business but to see and to be seen, was a growing pastime among us plain people, and not without its inconveniency, and I fear disadvantage. A right visit paid or received, is mutually strengthening. I have spoken my mind to a Friend on this subject, but received no praise for my care or concern; this I care little about; the day may come when I will be better understood than just now, in the height of so much pleasure.

"We have been around under appointment, attending the Monthly Meetings. The heat was great, and my weakness, bodily and spiritually, was trying to abide under. I was enabled secretly to crave help and preservation, that, through me, the cause might not suffer. Through favor not to be forgotten, my cry was heard. I felt much strengthened, and by the time meeting hour came round on Third-day morning, felt

like a new being. Thomas Kite attended the meeting, and ministered life to us; so that both immediately and instrumentally, help was sent."

To one of her children.

"——— has something to learn, though in many respects a clever young woman. But I think her friends did not, in her early education, enough imbue her mind with a proper understanding of the views of our Society, on account of its various peculiarities, together with more knowledge of its rise and history. She has so little taste for it, makes me think it is not the food on which she fed. It is a certain truth; 'Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.' There may be some exceptions to this truth, yet it is obligatory on religious parents so to do. The older I grow, the more I am sure of it, and digressions therefrom feel more trying to me than formerly."

To a daughter at Westtown.

"12th mo. 17th, 1841.

"I noticed your care about some lightness in meetings. Oh it requires much religious feeling in the superintendents and teachers, to reach such light spirits, and it spreads if not arrested. I remember when I was a scholar at that school, the labor of our good caretakers out of meetings, on our behavior in meetings. This labor from a right feeling and sincere heart, will be blessed to the children. I would encourage one and all to be faithful. Suitable opportunities improved,

sometimes in private, will be blessed. I feel much interest in your meetings, good readings, &c.; do mention them. It brings me so near, feel almost as if I were with you. I do exceedingly covet, that your hands may not hang down with discouragement. Be strong, be cheerful, be firm, for He who is with you, is greater than he who is trying to work against you."

To the same.

"2nd mo. 2nd, 1842.

"I attended meeting at G., on First-day; very small, and interrupted by a few late comers. This is such an unseemly habit, that I am at a loss to imagine how any person is willing to be in the way of it time after time."

To a brother.

"On taking my seat in meeting to-day, an unusual sense of want, and of entire inability to prepare an acceptable offering, seemed to come over me; when, to my comfort I remembered, that He whom we profess to worship, can prepare such as will be acceptable, and that our wants and need were known to Him. He needeth not to be informed; wait humbly before Him; a broken and contrite spirit He will not despise. For this little token I felt glad. It seemed a little evidence of His moving, as 'On the face of the waters.'"

To her brother B.

"It has been a low time with me; I could not even greet you with a line; and as I have had no letter to respond to, all has been silence. I am sensible years

are bringing their infirmities. Am feeble as to health, and convinced that my outward tabernacle is wearing out: desire not to be encumbered 'about many things,' so that the better building may be made secure. As for myself, I am free thou shouldst go. I have no doubt it did exercise thy mind greatly; which, I believe, is a necessary preparation for every religious service, greater or smaller. For lack of this, some things that are termed religious, feel so empty and weigh nothing. I could wish that all professing the guidance of the Spirit of Truth, had enough of this true exercise about them to keep them in their right places, and right sense of feeling, so as not to burden the living."

To the same.

"We had a good Monthly Meeting last Fifth-day: ability was afforded to labor to the point; even the departure of some of our youth from Friends' testimonies, in what they might term 'little things.' The subject was feelingly handled by our worthy Friend, R. S. It is cause for thankfulness, that some are qualified to speak about these departures. Many go out at that door and never return.

"A great deal rests on parents while their children are young and growing up, to watch, guard, help and explain, restrain and tenderly entreat, and not give out. Few children could be so stubborn, as not to yield, and in after years, thank heartily their parents for this wholesome care; though it was hard to them awhile, yet the yoke would become easy. Indeed I have really

feared, some parents like too well to see something a little smart and tasty, and so give away their strength, that when the children grow older and exceed bounds, they can do nothing. * * * * *

"I have desired it never may become an easy thing to go and do errands for the church, but that a portion of baptism may precede, preparing for service, although dwelling under it may not be pleasing to the natural part."

To one under affliction.

"Dear ———: Since my little call to see thee, my mind has often been turned towards thee with near feeling, and earnest desires for thy comfort. I have often said to myself, some may say there is no comfort or settlement for one so tried; but my sense is not so. That Great Being, who sees the afflictions of the afflicted, and graciously compassionates the workmanship of his own hands, if we bear our trials with patience and meekness, in his own time will say, 'It is enough,' will 'Give the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.' As to the outward, in looking towards a happy settlement with thy own family together, things may be unpromising; yet keep thy eye single to the Great Head, and much comfort may be thine. Often wait on Him in thy own mind, as many quiet moments must necessarily be thine; and do, dear ———, keep close to religious meetings, and there wait upon the Lord, and thou wilt be strengthened to bear up under the weight of thy sorrows, and be able to see that by so doing they can

be borne. My secret prayer and desire is, that they may be sanctified to thee, and that thou may yet have cause to praise His great name for His wonderful works."

To a daughter.

"1st mo., 1842.

"The feelings thou speaks of, *poor*, *low*, and *destitute*, I understand. As old as I am, and used to such turns, am almost ready to think sometimes that I shall never know any more good. I say nothing in vindication of this giving out way; better bear patiently; 'Wash and anoint and not appear to fast.'"

To the same.

"3rd mo., 1843.

* * * "Do not be discouraged when you have trying cases among the children. If teachers labor after a right qualification to treat with them, and not overdo with words or punishment, such labor may prove availing, and never be forgotten. The wise king said, 'A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.' Your movements have much interest for me. I do very much desire your preservation in the good and right way, which, to the single and simple hearted, is not hard to find. Some difficulties, and many things not altogether pleasant, may naturally be expected to occur among children, or between teachers and children, yet 'Wisdom is profitable to direct,' and *patience* is a great help, it removes mountains. Take some pains to understand the motives children have for acting; it does often very much

lessen the fault, or whatever is amiss. And then at other times the seeming good actions of the more artful are discovered, and an opportunity is furnished to place judgment on those; and thus they are helped. I feel more on this subject than I can write or speak of, but a word may be sufficient, having often felt my mind engaged for the help of my scholars, even in school hours; learning little by little the difference of dispositions, and noticing things, and treasuring them up for use, if ever wanted. This has sometimes enabled me to give privately a word of advice, caution or encouragement, and sometimes more publicly. A dear friend remarked to me when I was young, that 'Teaching school was next to preaching the gospel.'"

Yearly Meeting of 1842.

"4th mo., 1842. At the afternoon sitting on Seventh-day, of the Select Yearly Meeting, James Hadley, from Indiana, had a very appropriate communication, which seemed to raise a little life. This Friend and his companion seem to be walking carefully.

"It is a low time with me. I had almost questioned whether any good would ever reach me more, or that I should ever be refreshed, either immediately or instrumentally. Often of latter times do I remember an expression of a dear old Friend many years ago; he often used it, and no doubt experienced the truth of it, 'The days of youth are days of favor.' Our adversary is unwearied; and when we are weary and worn down bodily and mentally, he is still unwearied: that nothing but a close abiding with or near that power which

is over him, watching and praying, can secure us from falling a prey.

"First-day morning I attended Arch Street Meeting; many present that were not members. The communication Samuel Bettle delivered, was, no doubt, strengthening and encouraging to many: 'He that laboreth, receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal;' pretty lengthly and close to his subject. Thomas Kite followed with an address to those advanced in life. It felt to me to be true ministry. Surely he ministered to my state, and doubtless to many others. It flowed like oil, his voice and manner suiting his subject, encouraging us to trust to that God who had been with us all our life long, and had sustained us through various trials and difficulties; to which I could in my own experience fully subscribe.

"At our afternoon meeting a dear Friend spoke, and extended her communication, I thought, too far. It seemed to me like being in shallow water, near aground. O, how I do feel on these occasions; it seems a general hint from some dear father, like Jonathan Evans used to be in his day, would be serviceable.

"Third-day at our morning and afternoon sittings, we were favored with lively, sound remarks on several subjects. The indifference some manifest in the attendance of their religious meetings, was cause of exercise, and the subject was feelingly spoken to; the things that hinder, if a care was felt to press through, would not continue to let or hinder. It is an obligation we are all alike under, to the Great Giver of all good, and we are in duty bound to wait upon him in our meet-

ings; though sometimes we may feel poor, and as though no good was near, yet even that patient waiting and hungering was acceptable, and He would in His own time, arise for the help, encouragement and strength of these. I believe fresh ability was furnished to labor for the help of those who, through weakness and the hindering things of this world, keep back from fulfilling their duty in this respect.

"The inclination of many of our members to attend places of worship out of our Society, was noted in several reports, and a living exercise prevailed on that account. E. R. labored much to the point. She is greatly gifted, and I desire her preservation in humility and watchfulness, and faithfulness to the end. S. Emlen lifted up her voice on that subject, rehearsing Paul's expressions, 'O foolish Galatians! who hath bewitched you?' that ye seek to make that perfect in the flesh which was begun in the Spirit.

"This day we were favored with good meetings throughout, which is cause of thankfulness.

"At the afternoon sitting on Fourth-day, the minutes of the Meeting for Sufferings for the past year, were read, showing the care of that body for the furtherance of our principles and testimonies; their care in observing the movements of the legislature and the head department at Washington, using their influence with those bodies as way opens, on account of slavery and the slave trade; and on account of the poor Indians.

"There was also an Epistle addressed to the Meeting for Sufferings in London; an excellent document,

so feeling, so suitable, and evidently written under Divine direction.

"I felt thankful, not only that we had the reading of it, but that we had such efficient members, watching for the welfare of the body at large."

To a brother.

"Sixth mo., 1842.

"If we were careful in our different meetings and neighborhoods to support the standard for Truth, according to the gift and understanding which our great Head giveth to his willing, obedient and faithful followers, it seems to me that this is a day that some might be turned to look on us, not out of contempt, but from sincere motives; and the day is coming when I believe they will flock in as doves to the windows, from the troubled waters, when there is no rest to the soles of their feet. While I feel as I do in this respect, I can but be very jealous that many amongst us are not careful to live and example well day by day; and I often mourn over my own shortcomings."

To one of her children.

"8th mo. 4th.

"At our Quarterly Meeting, we had our Friends John Letchworth and Samuel Bettle. Both had service in the meeting. J. was brief and to the point, respecting the people being in readiness and waiting for the Saviour, in order to be healed of their various diseases; that he was as able and willing now as in that day, to heal and to cure our maladies, if we were

willing to do our part. S. was lengthy on 'The foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are his.' He was earnest in his exhortation to the young people present. For myself it was a low time, and these good things did not seem for me, or my state was not reached. But in our last meeting there was a little living stream in great weakness opened, which ran amongst us fresh and lively, through dear Alice Knight and Elizabeth Mason, and followed by a lowly humble petition to the throne of Grace, for a continuance of supplies of strength, with thanks for the present help, by our dear, though almost worn out Friend, Elizabeth Robeson. I travailed with this exercise, and it felt grateful."

To the same.

"11th mo.

"I reached home safely from the school, and brought with me much of the feeling that had gathered about me while there, and even yet it is not lost, though I have to lay aside some of the thoughts, to make room for home cares and concerns, which are many and various, increasingly so; may there be a proportionate concern to seek for a daily supply of Best help.

"E. Comfort is better again; was silent at meeting to-day, but of latter times has communicated considerably; I was almost ready to conclude he was finishing off his work. Our aged Friend, George Martin, is very poorly indeed, so that we are threatened with further strippings in our little meeting. If our broken ranks can but be filled to the honor of the good cause, it will, I trust, be a happy change to the afflicted."

To her brother, B.

* * * "I long to get nearer and nearer to what I ought to be. My time is so fully taken up, and a necessity laid upon me to turn from one thing to another without much loss of time, that to be rightly prepared for each portion of business as it presents, and so be doing my day's work in the day time, is my greatest desire.

"James Hadley, is this day at a meeting appointed for him at Horsham. When his visit to our meeting comes, I cannot say. The Good Shepherd hands out to us as we pass along, a little help, comfort and consolation, as well as advice, reproof and correction. As it comes either immediately or instumentally, I crave we may accept it and improve by it."

To the same.

"Our dear Friend, Sarah Emlen, was silent at each place she visited here, except a little for the children of C. F. She was not out on a religious concern, yet I was sensible she was not without religious exercise. She was rather more silent in her common manners than I have been used to see her; should not be surprised if a preparation for future religious service would be the result of this proving dispensation, wherein she was, to use her own words, 'Mercifully preserved from feeling any anxiety whether she recovered or not.'"

To the same.

"We have held a Monthly Meeting to-day. E. C. seemed to feel a little life, and ability to labor, encourag-

ing to some, though with a serious call to those who are pursuing worldly matters, regardless of the high obligations they are under for the many favors bestowed.

"Thou wilt doubtless be surprised to hear of the death of our cousin, E. R. I do feel much for her husband and son. When left by themselves, and all excitement gone by, then is the time of trial and proving, which some can hardly endure. I well remember what a discouraging view I had, when thus left; but mercy and goodness reached forth a kind, helping hand immediately. My spiritual ear heard a promise as clear and distinct as though vocally uttered, and with it a confidence was given me beyond all doubt of its source being from 'Him who cannot lie;' that if I did as I ought, and kept my place and station in the Truth, way would be made for my safety and getting along. Often, very often have I recurred to it all my life long since; and many times when under trial have said to myself,—What! distrust now! Truly on His part, He has fulfilled the promise."

To a friend.

"An unusual number of useful active members of our religious Society, who were in the prime of life, have been removed within the past year, from little meetings where they are much missed. But we may hope the mantle has fallen on those, who like Elisha, will be helped to gather it up, and move forward through the deeps, comparable to the waters. This will cheer thee now in the evening of thy lengthened day. From the appearance of very many middle-

aged and young Friends at our late annual meeting, there was reason to believe there would be a succession in our poor backsliding Society, that will be prepared to hold up the standard for the people to rally to. There are discouragements truly, and sometimes it would seem as if we should fail before the nations, and not be known, but an eye of faith is opened now and then to see better things. Truly I thought, at our late Yearly Meeting, notwithstanding I admit some hard things had to be suffered, that the Lord does design to comfort his people."

To her brother, Benjamin Albertson.

"I was able to get to Westtown, and attend the examination. S. Bettle says, it is as many hours sitting as the Yearly Meeting, if it held from Second-day morning till Seventh-day noon. We had an interesting time in the school, and much unity and good feeling among us in the engagement, and some fresh ability to endeavor to have things brought into and kept in good order, in regard to the dress of the boys and girls, and their language and behavior. I experienced a low time on Fourth-day night, almost ready to fear, that through our hands the concern would suffer. But in an opportunity with the children before meeting Fifth-day morning, was made thankful in finding the little strength increased, to plead with them relievingly, affording faith to believe, that He who furnished that for our present necessity, would be near and bless the labor to some of the dear children, and preserve the concern to the credit of Society."

To the same.

"Our meeting this morning, was favored with a rightly authorized communication from our Friend, E. C. Am always thankful when I can clearly see any one thus favored. It caused a fresh desire he might continue to experience his feet shod with the preparation of the gospel. There are in our days so many things to obstruct the pure gospel current, both in preachers and hearers, that we ought thankfully to rejoice when we can see eye to eye in the true light."

To one of her children.

"11th mo. 9th, 1842.

"Yesterday E. C. took Mercy Paxson and myself to Horsham, to attend Abington Monthly Meeting, where the Quarterly Meeting Committee was to meet. The meeting itself was good; but I had some very close trying feelings on several accounts; my heart inly mourned. I lodged with M. P., and to her I complained as much as would do. I suggested more diligence and faithfulness in our little meetings at home, to visit in a concern for the encouragement of individuals and families as way opened in the truth, and I believed it would open if Friends were more fully devoted to the good one of another, and not selfishly sit brooding over our own weak state, and caring for things at a distance. Thus I complained, and in this poor way was conveyed to our little select Quarterly Meeting at Germantown, very unfit to attend such a meeting; but through all, I did not forget that there was One able to help, though I felt no ability to

apply therefor. We had the company of our Friends Elizabeth Pittfield and Sarah Hillman. It was a fresh evidence of the care of our great Caretaker, in that he put it into the hearts of his servants to come and see how the brethren fared. Things both new and old were brought out of the good treasury. The circumstance was revived of the Apostle Paul being met by the brethren at Appi-Forum, or the Three Taverns, after he had been in great tribulation. As also that of the Prophet, when they were in a great strait, he prayed that the eyes of his servant might be opened to see; and behold he saw they were surrounded by the Lord's host, chariots of fire, horses, &c. So that altogether I was strengthened and comforted, and encouraged to leave those things; and in the place of the trial I was under, experienced a quiet, resigned feeling, even as a child weaned of its mother. It is marvellous how we are cared for and instructed. To be sensible of this preserving care is an invaluable blessing. We had a choice Quarterly Meeting the next day; I think it may be said 'Truth reigned' more than is usual; so that we have need, as I trust has been the case, to 'Thank God and take courage.'"

To the same.

"12th mo. 9th.

"My feelings were quite moved, to find that sadness and desertion should be so wrapped about thee in thy early pilgrimage. Whether our tarriance here be long or short, we do well to remember that if the very hairs of our head are all numbered, and not even a sparrow

is permitted to fall to the ground without His notice, surely He will care for us who are of more value than many sparrows. The circumstances by which you are surrounded at W. are peculiarly trying, and anxious feelings are yours; but be not too sad or anxious; 'Do your best and leave the rest.' Do not look up occasions for self-reproach or regret. It is a temptation which minds not very self-confident are apt to fall into, after watching and waiting on the sick and witnessing their close, even though they omitted no duty while it was in their power. A few moments after hearing of my nephew H. W.'s death, it came fresh to mind, 'Taken from the evil to come.' My chief care and concern is, that it may be blessed to the family and connections. I seem to feel some quiet assurance that he is well, and who could wish him back, or risk his life being prolonged."

To the same.

"25th.

"In looking at dear brother Josiah's case [afflicted with paralysis] with an outward eye, we have almost no hope; but I have had a different view. I may be suffered to be mistaken; am trying to be prepared to bear up, as the trial will be great, if he is now removed. Oh, I thought yesterday in waiting on him, can he possibly be raised from this low state of body and mind? To-day he seems more quiet. I cannot believe he is forsaken, but trust that the Lord will, in great mercy, save him. My mind in sitting quietly by his bedside, was so sweetly comforted with being favored to see His

great mercy many ways to his poor people struggling with infirmity; I cannot tell thee how good it felt to me. I believe now is our time to be found near the throne of grace, supplicating not only for ourselves but for him, as our Great Head may be pleased to help us so to do in the secret of our hearts, for He knoweth all hearts, and no secret is hid from Him."

To one of her children.

"Our meeting this morning was remarkable for a communication of our Friend, E. C.'s, delivered I believe, with right authority. After describing the state we read of, being 'empty, swept and garnished,' the evil spirit entered, and the last state was worse than the first; similar to that of being at ease in Zion. His concern centered in the state of an individual present, who had yielded to Heavenly visitations, and measurably taken up the cross, but had stopped short and taken up a rest by the way. He was very close and to the point, mentioned the 'sow washed,' and 'wallowing in the mire,' and earnestly recommended a closing in with Divine requiring, and 'thou wilt be an instrument for his glory, and thy candle will shine brightly. But, O, if thou return not and yield all up, thy candle will be removed out of its place, and the mind of thy heavenly Father concerning thee will not be known by thee.' It felt to me like a fresh call to some poor soul."

To the same.

"1st mo. 27th, 1843.

"This ridiculing disposition thou speaks of, which

is manifested by some towards those who assemble to read some religious work, I felt grieved with, and much sympathy was mine for the rightly exercised ones, scholars and caretakers. This scoffing is hard to cure, and great wisdom is to be used; for Solomon says: 'A scorner loveth not one that reproveth him, neither will he go unto the wise.' I have felt desirous you may so move that no just cause of offence be administered. To those who feel willing to be instructed, even to hear good reading, I would recommend the reading for their comfort and encouragement the first Psalm of David. Indeed, many comfortable promises to the humble, lowly ones, are recorded, and they need not be ashamed, and my heart's desire is, that they may use the opportunity put into their power by their friends sending them there, and treasure up the good advice, and the good feelings too, of their concerned caretakers; the committee Friends who visit them, and other Friends who come there. I know something about what I say; when I was young, not fifteen years of age, my feelings at that school are yet remembered with gladness, and the labors of concerned Friends there, have been helpful on my journey, especially helpful, through the tribulated path of life.

"Thomas Kite attended our Monthly Meeting very acceptably; *faithfulness* was the burden of the word; faithfulness to our different gifts. He supplicated for the company convened in our parlor after dinner; there were various states present. Some of which were in a solemn manner brought to view and remembered. O, may it 'avail much.'"

To one of her daughters.

"3rd mo. 1st, 1843.

"Attended our Monthly Meeting; very low in feeling. Unexpectedly we had the company of our Friends E. Pittfield and S. Hillman. As regards this visit, I may say, I cannot tell thee what a comfort it was; there was spread a full table of choice good things of the right preparing, for which I am not able to be thankful enough.

"I was glad to hear from the sick child at the school, (Westtown)—feel interest enough in many of your cares and concerns to bring me there; but at present all I can do is to desire for you, and that the work may be blessed to the dear children, even to the naughty ones. Do not give out, not one of you, from the superintendents down to the least of the helpers, who are looking to the only Helper, and it seems to me the work will be blessed. 'Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy.' This is often mercifully so."

To the same.

"17th.

"There is a way, which of all others, I dislike for young girls to fall into; an admiration for personal appearance, and fixing up apparel to suit such feelings. Do thou discourage an increase of it. It is one of the very evil things. It grows out of the naughty ones setting themselves up, and all who cannot imitate pretty well every way, and in every thing, are pointed at and ridiculed. It is a disposition that will not bend to the cross in any thing, nor let others bend to it; not even though it is the great con-

cern for caretakers and committee to have all in the simplicity, and that they should rather improve their minds and seek to get wisdom. I do really mourn over these things in young persons, it is so great a hindrance to a growth in grace, and keeps the heart hard and haughty, so that good cannot enter. Sad as this is, I see no way but to lie low and cry mightily for the deliverance of the children of this people, and that their eyes may be opened to see the things which belong to their peace, and for strength to stand against wrong things, that so they may not be carried captive by their soul's enemy."

"I hear a separation has taken place in Indiana Yearly Meeting on the subject of slavery. The separatists held a yearly Meeting to themselves, and transacted all the usual business of such a meeting, addressed Epistles, &c. This is calculated to bring Friends into trial again. Many ways the destroyer gets entrance into our poor Society, and we should certainly fail and give back, did we not know of a certainty that, 'The foundation stands sure,' and that 'The Lord knoweth them that are his;' that 'His arm is not shortened that it cannot save, nor his ear grown heavy that it cannot hear.'"

Yearly Meeting of 1843.

"I would like to give some good account of the Yearly Meeting each day, but came to it in great feebleness of mind and body.

"On Second-day morning the meeting convened and

was large, though there were many vacant seats in the galleries. Epistles from all the Yearly Meetings with which we correspond, were read. Though there is a backsliding in many in our Society, yet a living seed is left, which is like 'Deep calling unto deep.' I am almost afraid to use this language, but so it seemed to me. But I do sorrowfully know there are some in high stations who do not feel the true state of things. There is great need not to be high minded, but to fear and crave, as ability is afforded, that the heritage may not be given over to reproach; and that those may not rule over us, who are not believers in the lowly, self-denying life of Christ, which is inwardly revealed, even to babes and sucklings.

"On Third-day morning, proceeded with the Queries and answers, as far as the sixth. Deficiencies are still marked, and it seemed to me as though there was much hidden exercise, a little of which, some few were strengthened to spread before the meeting. The neglect of our little meetings at home, and many not being careful to take the children with them, were adverted to as a cause of great weakness amongst us, and the children suffered loss. Overseers, and other concerned Friends, were admonished to deal faithfully with such, and to be willing to go down into littleness and try to feel with them, that their labor might be helpful; in short, there is a baptism of spirit to go through before we are fitted for any service, either in a public or a private way. The many instances of our young Friends attending places of worship where a hireling ministry is

maintained, was cause of exercise; and these two subjects were directed to the care of the representatives.

"The slackness of parents in carefully bringing up their children from very early life in plainness of dress and habits, prepares the way for departures from the testimonies of the Society; makes it easy for them to mingle with the world, and to go to other places of worship, to the great grief of concerned Friends, and the hurt of the cause. The expressions which were addressed to William Penn by his father were revived, to the effect, that if he and his friends kept to their plain way of preaching, and plain way of living, they would make an end of priestcraft, to the end of the world.

"—— appeared in an instructive communication, on our having each a gift, a talent or talents to occupy, and the need we be found faithfully occupying them, that so we might refund them with their increase; and she pressed the remembrance of the account, that it was the *slothful* servant that did not use his gift, but said, 'I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strewed.' It was a solid communication, and calculated to stir up to faithfulness.

"In our meeting that met at 8 o'clock on Fourth-day morning, some weighty counsel was in a lively feeling communicated by several Friends."

"6th mo., 2nd.

"Dear children:—In regard to taking children to meeting, it is certainly our duty so to do, and to endeavor rightly to impress their tender minds with cor-

rect and proper views of our being so concerned; it may have a lasting good effect. The evil seed starts its growth very early, and if we are not careful 'in the morning' to sow the seed, and 'in the evening withhold not the hand,' we cannot expect a growth in that which is good. While I thus write, I am sensible the work must be begun in ourselves, or we can do nothing that will be availing for the children.

"16th. I have not been well, though am better; and glad to be so, as it was our meeting day, and we much stripped; so I was able to sit in my place. Out of poverty and weakness as to any ability to help myself, was somewhat comforted and refreshed in remembering the sister of Lazarus, who said, 'But I know that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask, God will give it thee.' So great is his mercy and condescension, He does help and raise up."

To one of her children.

"7th mo., 6th.

"At our meeting to-day, we had the company of our Friends, William and Elizabeth Evans. Our members generally there, with some of the neighbors round; and truly our state was ministered unto. In the first place W. was engaged to show what our forefathers in the Truth were, and how much the Society falls short in the present day; that had we as a people been faithful, we should ere this have possessed the gates of our enemies. Then remembering the poor struggling ones, encouragement was found adapted to our several exigencies. The close provings in our dif-

ferent allotments were alluded to, and the stratagems of our common adversary, suiting his baits to all ages and stations, prowling around our habitation until we are ready to fear we shall fall, and indeed that we are already fallen.

"Our standing has seemed to me of latter times to be in slippery places; the security and confidence which was the neighborhood feeling, is very much gone, and the general feeling changed, or I am mistaken; there seems nothing to rest the foot on. William got into the condition of things, as it seemed to me, and closely pressed dwelling with our suffering Lord, even if yet more reduced in numbers. He seemed to believe yet further trials await this Society, but a rising out of this low estate will come, when there will be a looking unto and drawing unto this people.

"This is scarcely the outline of a long communication, every word to the point: Elizabeth supplicated afterwards for the states brought to view in the address. It was a favored time, and more than we had a right to expect."

24th. After speaking of many favors dispensed, H. W. says: "So we are cared for by the Good Husbandman, with all our failings and short-comings; to sit down and mourn over these will not do; we must be up and doing, for 'the day hasteneth.'"

To one of her brothers.

"28th.

"More and more it is needful—yea, positively so,

for Friends to keep the dear children from mixing with the multitude. I fear many of the young people within my knowledge are hurt thereby. Even the children of Friends congregating together unnecessarily, I do see leads to no good.

"We may reasonably expect a sifting and winnowing season in Society; there being almost everywhere too much of a mixing with the world in its various customs, fashions, and many self-pleasing things. It is impossible in this small compass to lay before thee my feelings on these matters; I am almost all the time sad; only now and then a bright spot."

To one of her children.

"8th mo. 18th, 1843.

"Came safely to the city, and attended the week-day meeting on Sixth Street. It was a meeting at which a table was spread with many good and salutary things for hungry souls. I mourned over the absent who belonged there,—the sons left in the stores, &c., and many flimsy reasons assigned for the omission. Most surely we as a people will be visited for these things, and for the indifference in other ways; even robbing Him to whom only honor is due, and following our own ways and pleasures. I dined at J. and C. C.'s; they with their children were at meeting. These Friends, it seems to me, are trying to do as well as they know how with their family, and I look for a further advancement, if faithfulness is abode in. What is it that is said about the 'Willing hearted in Jerusalem?'

"——— has been very sick; seems sensible he has narrowly escaped being brought low. I desire every admonitory call to us may have a proper effect. In great mercy we are spoken to in different ways by our Great Preserver, in order that we may escape the wrath to come; which will inevitably come on those who do not obey the call of, 'Walk before me and be thou perfect."

"I want to hear from our dear Friends, James and Sarah Emlen, and from you all at Westtown. Suppose you are toiling on from day to day. That concern is like a great machine, always in motion. It was in the first outset a religious concern, for the guarded education of our youth. I have desired that this may be carefully kept in view by the Yearly Meeting, the committee, superintendents, teachers, and all the officers in the house. It is a great strength to be all united in furthering this concern."

"8th mo. 28th. We had a crowded, sultry ride, far from agreeable, though the company were very civil. These strict temperance days have made drunken and half drunken men scarce; a change to be regarded with much satisfaction. The leaven of our testimonies, if faithfully adhered to by our Society, will have an influence on the community at large; so said ———, in the conversation I had with him, when I excused myself and family from attending his lecture on Slavery. 'It is your leaven that is out in the world, and as you

are faithful, it will more and more spread and prevail.' He mentioned war, and other of our testimonies.

"I was glad to hear our Friend, R. Scotton, had called ——— and ——— to account for coming to meetings late, as also their absence on Fifth-day. There was a sound in it betokening right zeal. I wish we could find time and inclination to go and see our members in the right way. It would have an encouraging effect. There are some who hardly feel as if they were linked to Society, they are so little noticed, or not noticed at all. Some such may never be able to do much for Society, but Society may do something for them. 'Those who are not against us are for us.'"

"9th mo. 8th. My best love to dear S. E. Her time seems lengthened out, and doubtless for a good and wise purpose. It is not a great deal we communicate to each other outwardly, but I believe we are not strangers to each other in hidden exercise, and I set more value on that sort of acquaintance—yea, much more—than in outside show of friendship, without any foundation but the natural feelings of unstable mortals.

Date omitted.

"We had the company of our Friends, James and Sarah Emlen; I thought we had a good meeting after deep wading. A fresh call was sent forth to the children of this people, and to the children of others present, to 'Come out and be ye separate, and touch not the unclean thing,' &c. The way was clearly opened and shown them, with very suitable encouragement; that the way of the cross was the way to the kingdom.

It is a safe way, and peace is the result of walking therein. O that we were more in earnest to hold up the standard for the people to rally to!"

"11th mo. 8th, was our Quarterly Meeting. It seemed a good solid time with Friends, and we had some suitable communications. My feelings resembled the wintry appearance without doors. I was poor, destitute, blind and naked. Yet I loved my Friends, which seemed the only good spark left. But I do not wish to complain,—have more than I deserve. So, dear child, let us try to be travelling on, that so at the end of time having done what we could, we may be received with the answer of 'Well done;' this is all that is worth our concern. By little and little we progress; not great matters at once."

"I feel very much for dear ———, who, I understand, is wading under a load of exercise, and passing through the dispensation of judgment and of burning, under which the enemy buffets and upbraids, casts down and seeks to destroy. My heart has been strengthened, in being afresh made to see how good the Lord is in remembering us in our low and sinful condition, and in great mercy reaching forth a helping hand when utterly unable to help ourselves."

To her daughter at Westtown.

"24th.

"I have received the account of the issue of the case of illness at Westtown. My mind had been buoyed between hope and fear. Deeply did I feel for

all interested; the caretakers there, and her own dear friends. Close must the event have proved, and, no doubt, caused deep searching for the cause, why she, who so lately gladdened the eyes of her parents, should leave the family circle for such a good reason as that of obtaining school learning, many miles from home, and almost immediately on entering fall sick; and though, no doubt, anxiously watched over and faithfully cared for, should then be summoned to her ever-enduring home. Oh, saith my soul, may the Lord bless the dispensation to all concerned, that it may help prepare for the same final termination to these mortal bodies, and through the gracious interposition of the blessed Redeemer, qualify for an entrance into the mansions of rest, where I do humbly trust, this dear child has safely landed after those agonizing sufferings."

To the same.

"12th mo. 1st.

"The Monthly Meeting to-day, was a remarkable one. Ezra Comfort had a concern to encourage the tried, the wrestling spirit; that as sure as Jacob was blessed after wrestling the whole night season, so would the same concern now be blessed. Then a state was mournfully spoken of; that of being at ease in Zion,—indifferent, unconcerned. Oh, what can be done for these? was the query. Then Robert Scotton followed; spoke of a state that was trusting in the form without the power; making a goodly appearance, but sliding along unconcerned. He pressed an individual

examination, saying, it would not hurt the very best to examine—'Is it I? Is it I?' We might hide our state from one another, but a day was hastening when we should appear just as we really were, naked and bare, before the judgment seat. Truly, I may say it felt solemn indeed! Then dear —— ——, mentioned that early in the meeting she had felt a concern to revive the passage concerning the 'Vineyard that was planted in a very fruitful hill;' that having fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, it was planted with a choice vine, and when he looked for grapes, behold it brought forth wild grapes. The result was, the hedge was to be taken away, 'and it should be eaten up, and the wall thereof broken down, and it shall be trodden down; and I will lay it waste, it shall not be pruned nor digged; but there shall come up briars and thorns, and I will command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.' A lamentable situation, should any of us be thus left. I do believe this exercise was begotten by the great Head of the Church, for his poor backsliding and rebellious people, once more to sound the alarm; and whether we will hear or forbear, He will be clear, and his faithful servants will be clear.

"1843. Under great depression, but from a conviction it would be right, I have been round to see some of our neighbors. If Thomas Kite (who has been attending our meetings) had not been so hurried when at the bedside of my dear brother Josiah, I believe a word would have been furnished. Have rather hoped T.'s Master would send him back to finish. There is R. J., not able to see Friends who come to have meet-

ings among us; and there also is M. B., now a little revived; and our aged Friend, G. M., all Plymouth members, who had not the privilege of meeting our Friends at meeting. It does seem to me so connected with the concern of the Friends, that either we or they have too lightly overlooked it. I feel willing all these cases should be thrown before Thomas: he will not come unless his way opens. All these rest heavy on me; I can but feel the low spot that some of them are in. I know too, that 'Help is laid on One who is mighty,' and able for his own work, without the aid of instruments."

To her brother, B. A.

"I feel bound to thank thee for thy scrap; it has had a tendency to stir up the pure mind in me, by way of remembrance. To have strength to go through with thy every-day cares is a favor; and also, to have some sight and sense, that the trials of the present day (if rightly lived through), will result for our real good, is an encouragement to bear up manfully, and try to live rightly through them. I live in hope, that some sense of a helping hand may be seen and felt, but times are low with me.

"My best love to you, also the dear children. If you can do nothing else, take the right care of them as they grow up. The late Yearly Meeting minutes of advices say, 'Children are an heritage from the Lord, and we must watch for them as for our own souls.'"

To the same.

"Thy mournful letter I received. Were it not that it answered as face to face in a glass with my own condition, I might put a wrong construction upon it. Doubtless it is best to wait the whole appointed time, the night season through; a brighter moment will come; faith and patience work wonders, for the blessing attends.

"I looked for thee at our Quarterly Meeting. No doubt thou wouldst have been comforted through the ministry of our Friends, William Evans and Isabella Casson, who attended our meeting, and whose exercises agreed together. W.'s concern, was to strengthen those who were stripped and in prison, having no light, and very little comfort, when their judgment was taken away, and they were ready to call all the good they ever had experienced in question. He encouraged such to hold on, to keep near to their dear Lord, and in His own time he will come, and as in the twinkling of an eye, can change the dispensation; and said these proving seasons are among His choice blessings. He then addressed those of younger experience, who were in danger of being led away by some near friend, who did not intend to mislead, but were looking too much outward at the appearance of things; there being many voices out in the world. If a watchful care was not maintained, and a close walking with the Good Guide, by prayer and humbling themselves before Him, some who had set out well were in great danger of suffering loss. Then a spiritual and energetic call to the poor prodigal who had wasted his substance in riotous liv-

ing, feeding on that which does not satisfy, while there is bread enough and to spare, in the Father's house, who yet stood graciously disposed to receive such a returning, repenting prodigal.

"In conclusion, I may say, it is a great blessing to have a living gospel ministry preserved in our Society. 'The ear trieth words as the mouth tasteth meat.'"

To P. P.

"I acknowledge the receipt of thy letter; it was acceptable to hear of the children and thy aged mother, yet, there was part of thy letter which did not feel so pleasant;—to bring into view with seeming satisfaction, those separate meetings. The ground taken by those who compose them, is but being very newly tried; the safer way on your part would be, to be pretty quiet,—so it seems to me. In looking to see how plain men and women, so lately members of our religious Society, must appear, in attending and listening to a lecture, by one of the modern lecturers of the day on the subject of Slavery, I am pained. I do not know how the anti-slavery people out there manage the business; but here it is seen by many, when traced home, to have its right arm in politics. Where Friends join them (if preserved spiritually alive), they will find precious testimonies must be laid waste, and to say the least, have to sit down with sorrow in the end. Whether this is the case or not, I am willing just to say, I believe the ground broad enough for our religious Society to move on, when help may be availingly handed. I can truly say, dear P., the care and labor of our

Yearly Meeting, the past year, was cause of humble gratitude; and the sweet fellowship was like incense, reaching even to Him who is able to help all, who in humility wait for his appearing.

"I do not pen this from a fulness of rich feeling; I am very poor every way, but can sincerely crave that your eyes may be opened, and hearts inclined to trust yourselves in the bosom of Society, leaning on that Arm which is able to deliver to the very uttermost; who puts forth his own and goes before them. 'My sheep hear my voice, and they follow me, and the voice of a stranger will they not follow.'"

To a scholar at Westtown.

"Ever since thy return to school, dear ——, my mind has been turned towards thee, in near and tender feeling, greatly desiring thy preservation, knowing as I well do the trials and temptations attending the pathway of the young. It would be well for thee to remember, that youth is the seed-time of life, and that such as we sow, such also shall we reap. The particular matter that lies with weight on my mind is, that now having to change thy dress, in order to meet the views of the Yearly Meeting's Committee, who have the care of that Institution, in regard to plainness, thou may not ever change back again. Words cannot convey to thee my sorrow, when I saw thou wert likely to lay aside thy plain appearance. Oh, how I did inly mourn, that thy example would be against those who were striving to keep their lads plain; then here was thy brother close after thee, to

want the same liberty. I did try to open my feelings to thy dear mother, but it did not relieve me; I ought to have left my burden with thy dear father, and now he is no more. May thou take a course that will insure peace at last. I do not at all wonder at thy wanting this change, but though it may seem a small thing now, yet it is one of the ways out of Society, and very few who go out this way, ever return. Hard work is the consequence if they ever get back; then those who may follow thy example and grieve their tender friends, may never return, and remain useless in Society, if in it they continue. I want thou should remember, that if thou lives, great responsibility will rest upon thee. Prepare for it, by a wise and steady conduct. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left, from following in the footsteps of the flock of Christ's companions; then ere long, if thou continue faithful, it may please the Great Giver of all good gifts, so to endow thee, that thou might be prepared to take the place of thy dear and tender parent, who in wisdom unsearchable, has been called away in the midst of his usefulness. I desire thou mayst keep these things close in view. It may be a strength in time of trial and close temptation which will beset, till thou obtain a victory over the fascinating things of time, then thou wilt have to rejoice as I do, and as many others have had to do, that we were kept by our close friends from turning off in the days of youth, and can bless my parents now that their heads are laid low, for their care; and many can subscribe to the benefit of the same excellent way."

"12th mo., 21st. Thy letter was received giving account of the further afflictive dispensation. Our feelings were indeed deeply affected. It seems all through as if the case were nearly our own. I feel much for all of you who are sensible of the responsibility that belongs to your stations. Wisdom is profitable to direct us in all things, while we believe that our lives are in His hands who will do right."

"As regards ———, I may say; it is not for every truly exercised soul to appear publicly. His ways are a great deep, and it becomes us to lay low and wait all the appointed time, though it be a long dark time, wherein neither sun, moon nor stars appear. He may be working a work in and for us, which will not only be acceptable to Him, but redound to his glory and praise eventually, and we be filling up our measure of the sufferings of Christ which yet remains, for the church's sake, and our own soul's sake."

To a Friend.

"We have begged a little money for poor old Dinah, and also some wood, and got it hauled, which required considerable contrivance to get it done. Blind S. is sick. I have had many fears for the poor old woman, yet when I visited her in the loft under the rafters, her bed on the floor, I concluded she would be watched over by that Eye which sleeps not, but who regards all the workmanship of His hands, and without whose notice not even a sparrow falls to the ground. She asked me to read to her, and since, I heard their minister

had been sent for to pray for her. I felt a hope she might be comforted, but thought there were those there who needed to be prayed for more than she, if they had known it."

To a daughter at Westtown.

"12th mo., 1843.

"We hear our dear Friend Christopher Healy has a minute to come within the limits of Abington Quarter to hold meetings, principally for other people. The call to the highways and hedges seems to be going forth, and I believe there is also a fresh invitation to many among us. To me it does seem to be a very interesting period in our Society, though on many accounts discouraging."

To her children.

"1844.

"I feel as if I had a few words to say, which may a little guide in your deciding as to what meeting you shall attend. First desiring that 'He whose ways are not as our ways, nor His thoughts as our thoughts,' may so open the way that there may be no doubt left in your minds. But as we are so prone to let common considerations, convenience, &c., influence us in our determinations, I want to say it will be of great importance to ———, exercised as she often is, to have around her feeling Friends; mothers in the best sense. For want of the true sense and sympathy of the Elders and caretakers in meetings, many a poor, exercised and rightly concerned young person in the ministry has not

had help, and gone halting all their days; and so have not been able to answer the design of the great Head of the church in putting them forth."

To the same.

"It is a poor time in our Society; there is need for every one to look to the principle, or they will certainly be blown away. If they find themselves rooted and grounded in the Truth, they need not fear the storms nor the assaults of the cunning adversary trying to deceive. May we see to it; time is precious, and we all stand accountable. When I think of these things, other matters seem of small moment."

To the same.

"2nd mo. 9th, 1844. With a few other Friends, I accompanied our Friend, C. Healy, to an appointed meeting at Norristown. It was held in the basement story of the Baptist meeting-house. The meeting was very quiet, and crowned with the presence of the great Minister of ministers. If it was not so, then I had no right sense of it. A 'Whip of small cords' was not given C., but an encouraging and inviting communication, with life and power. I do not know how better to describe it than did the Presbyterian minister, who, after meeting, introduced himself to C. as such; acknowledging his thankfulness for the meeting; that the communication was cordial to his feelings. It was, he said, 'The very cream of the gospel;' that 'It had distilled as the dew.' I observed the man during the time C. was engaged, for he sat directly before me; he

was much affected and broken. What his real character is I do not know; but likely, as Nicodemus did, so would he. Christopher treated on that of Nicodemus coming by night for fear of the Jews. The man was sensibly reached, and my desires for him are, *faithfulness* to manifested truth, and to his duty. He offered his house to C., and welcome when he came again; but C. informed him he did not know that he ever should come again. When we got into the carriage and were returning, C. seemed much relieved, and especially rejoiced in believing the way was open for our Friends, should they incline from a sense of duty, to appoint a meeting at Norristown. We came to my brother, Jacob Albertson's, to tea. The evening was spent in suitable conversation, but yielding to a little intimation for stillness, comparable to the cloud that was the size of a man's hand, a shower was poured forth with life and power. Thus, again and again the Lord was good to us, poor things as we are, and we have nothing to pay with; may a ready obedience be yielded."

To the same.

"On Fourth and Fifth-days attended our Select and Quarterly Meetings. Ezra Comfort was engaged on Fifth-day, for the welfare and preservation of our Society, in its present peculiar situation. In the last meeting Alice Knight was concerned to speak of the hurt we sustained by reading publications of conspicuous persons of other religious denominations, which contain many sentiments and views corresponding with

those of Friends, and yet in other parts are entirely at variance, and striking at the root, the fundamental principles of our Society. I travailed with her in near feeling, being an exercise I have long been under. This kind of reading is opening the way for a relish for that which is as 'Sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal,' while it destroys the relish and renders tasteless the profitable reading of the Holy Scriptures, and good books which have been penned in the savor of life."

"2nd mo. 22nd. I often think that if in the moment of trial and vexation, we could stop and not speak until the right time, how much heart-burning it would save us. The tongue is a troublesome member to an unguarded individual. I can speak from experience in myself, and need improve even in old age.

"I have been thinking this evening, that if there were more sincerity and simplicity of heart, it would be better for us as a Society. I just now remember dear Sarah Cresson's communication to us in our women's Monthly Meeting, shortly after the separation; and she spoke so feelingly: 'No matter how low we are, so we are preserved from despair.' That was a day of close besetment and trial, and so is this."

"'The meeting small.' Well, if attended faithfully, not formally, but with prayerful hearts, the Lord will regard with an eye of compassion."

To ———.

"We had a pleasant visit lately from S. and A. R.

The latter is much broken; but the quiet, subdued and patient state of mind that was to be felt in her company was very agreeable and comforting to me. I remembered that 'These light afflictions which are but for a moment, work for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.' May she indeed realize it, is my desire for her, as for myself."

"I wish the confusion and noise in the world, may not reach you in your quiet retreat at Westtown. The original rule, and a good one it was too, of having no visitors on First-days, ought to be faithfully observed. There are substantial reasons for it. Both committee and superintendents ought to unite in speaking against it. Our time here is very short, and to improve it so that we may all be ready for an enduring state, is what we must be concerned for."

To one of her children.

"26th.

"Went to the city yesterday afternoon; arrived rather late for meeting; though went, not feeling willing to miss meeting. A quiet, solid sitting. Near the close dear E. Pittfield, ministered to a lowly, proved condition, answering as face to face in a glass with that of my own; having felt, on approaching the city, as if all my 'Goodliness was as filthy rags.' I felt myself paid for coming, if I should then return and see no one who knew me. When meeting closed, I quietly left the house. Attended the evening meeting, where we had the company of our Friends Dougan and Asenath Clark, whom I came down to see. I feel

easy they should go on their embassy [a religious visit to England and Ireland], desiring the blessing of preservation for them. This morning at 8 o'clock, they went on board the ship, many friends accompanying them there. I felt most inclined to stay at my brother's. Was engaged in reading T. Scattergood's Journal, which I cannot read without much emotion, so much feeling is couched in the account, and knowing him as I did, and somewhat of his exercised spirit and sorrowful turn of mind at times. The solid attitude in which he was accustomed to sit, seemed plainly before me."

"——— has passed through a great deal latterly; whether Best Wisdom may see meet to finish the work, or prepare through further baptisms for further usefulness, I leave.

"Glad to hear of your good meetings. They are among the rich blessings of our heavenly Father, to the poor and needy."

To her daughter, at Westtown.

"3rd mo. 8th, 1844.

"I have been quite sick; but, through the kindness of Him who careth for the sparrows, am again better. Think I can say, I feel a degree of thankfulness to my heavenly Father, for all, and as much as any for the 'Severe.' If food and raiment, and a home of my own be allowed to the end of this life, I ask no more of these things: feel very different about them from what I used to in years gone by. Am glad I can say,

I think my faith increases as nature fails. It is very comfortable to be easy in our feelings; and besides, to have those around me who are studying my comfort all along; I cannot want more, except a glimpse now and then of my good Guide, with the crook of His love to steer by, that that which remains of labor in any way for the best of causes may be going on, and I found in my allotment, though in a little simple way; this is the height of my desire." * * *

"There are many things that are wrong amongst us as a people. 'The golden wedge,' and 'Babylonish garment,' with other wrong things, for which there are mourners; and I have a sure hope that the ruins will be viewed and strength given to rebuild, even through rebuke like this: 'What do these feeble Jews,' &c.? So let us not be overly discouraged; strength for the day, I fully believe, will be furnished to those who are preparing for the work."

"12th. My late visit to the school, has seemed to bring all the careworn ones near, in feeling. There is no other way, but to learn to bear burdens, and to keep down to the root of the matter, that you may see and understand how things really are. I do believe that faithful, honest labor in that concern, will have its reward."

"Thy account of dear Sarah Emlen's exercise was moving. Her way in the ministerial line, there at Westtown, of latter times, seems to be generally close

and searching; her secret baptisms, deep and oft. My whole heart is filled with desire for her help and safe keeping, her comfort too in tribulation. If I could write a suitable letter to her, I would; but I think she has better comfort, and I am greatly comforted in being able to feel where she is."

To a brother.

"29th.

"There is truly a living seed there in that meeting, and it is not confined to the aged and middle aged, but young Friends, and even children, appear solid and settled; that it is encouraging. No minister belonging to that meeting now for many years. They are not depending on instrumental help.

"The long ride to meeting, will require faith and patience sometimes to accomplish it, and perseverance too, but He who is strength in weakness, and helps us when we cannot help ourselves, I do hope will be near."

Yearly Meeting of 1844.

"4th mo., 1844. My mind has been very quiet and thoughtful on my own account, respecting attending this annual meeting, and solicitous not to forget myself, not even for a minute.

"At our afternoon meeting on Seventh-day, our dear Friend, Sarah Emlen, brought her concern before the meeting, under a baptized feeling afresh extended to her, of which the meeting largely partook. She arose and opened it with these words, 'I may say as a ser-

vant formerly, "Unless the Lord had been my help, my soul had almost dwelt in silence. When I said my foot slippeth, thy mercy O, Lord, held me up." Had this not been the case, I should not care to tell my friends, that a concern which was left nine years ago in the bosom of the Church, has rested with weight now for several years, inducing a belief that it would be required of me to visit in the love of the gospel, the "Isles afar off," and I apprehend the "Full time" has come.' She alluded to her deep baptisms and close provings, and how low she had been brought; that her 'Family was poor in Manasseh, and she the least in her father's house, yet, through mercy she had been sustained.' It left a precious feeling over the meeting, under which, much unity was felt and expressed, and the expression was so general, that a Friend compared it to a 'Sky without a cloud.' After full time was allowed for Friends to express themselves, a committee was appointed to prepare for her a certificate.

"Third-day morning, the Queries and their answers, were read and considered. Suitable advice on various subjects, was handed forth in life and authority. The neglect of week-day meetings by some, was shown to be the result of not keeping the right thing uppermost. Hannah Gibbons recommended, to 'Seek first the kingdom of God, and the righteousness thereof, and all things needful would be added; that Godliness with contentment, is great gain.' 'We brought nothing into this world, and it was certain we could carry nothing out;' with more that was excellent and to the point; encouraging concerned Friends to speak in love

to those who were remiss. Several Friends were concerned on this subject, and spoke to it in a lively manner.

"On the subject of love and unity, E. Evans set forth the only true ground on which it could be maintained; 'I and my Father are one.' 'Continue ye in my love, that ye may be my disciples indeed.' The necessity of keeping low; not seeking our own honor, was enjoined, but the honor of Him who hath called us; no self-exaltation, &c.

"A silent, hidden seed, was sweetly addressed by E. Pittfield: 'Who hath believed our report, and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?' The union between Christ and his followers was described; 'Whosoever doeth the will of my Father which is in Heaven, the same is my mother and sister and brother.' 'Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.' It was shown there might be unity out of this, but it was not the true unity.

"The attendance of some under our name, at places where a hireling ministry is supported, was feelingly spoken to by Isabella Cason. She marvelled that any should grow weary of our little silent meetings, and be willing to sit under a man-made ministry, supported by pay, while He whom we profess to serve, is able to teach his people himself.

"Hannah Gibbons, was earnest for a more lively zeal towards God, and did encourage all to be careful to attend religious meetings. She is aged, and very lively in best things.

"The conclusion of this our Yearly Meeting was solid, and with becoming weightiness and dignity this

large gathering separated, after sitting five days. During the various sittings Friends were refreshed by the presence of the Great Head of the Church, enabling to transact the important business thereof in harmony."

To one of her children.

"8th mo. 1st.

"Attended Goshen Monthly meeting, where we had the company of our Friend, Samuel Cope, who ministered in truth's authority. He was favored to administer counsel, caution and encouragement, suiting different states, with an affectionate invitation to the young people to come, taste, and see for themselves that the Lord is good. His first concern was earthly-mindedness, and the effect of it was clearly shown. Then the reverse, and the result of that portrayed. Then on arising the second time, he addressed a rightly concerned class very encouragingly; alluded to the 'Lo here's,' and 'Lo there's;' but these moved not. They had built on Christ the Rock, and could not be moved; they were enabled to see the snares and the gins by which our adversary draws away the unwary."

"1st mo., 1845.

"A few lines in acknowledgment of thy letter, I thought would be right. From thy account, I perceive that Best Help, at times has been near, sufficient for the occasion. My heart was warmed with gratitude for the favor, and an engagement was felt that thy abiding might be low and humble; not reaching after even a word which was not in due course of fresh feeling, and immediately given, so that life be admin-

istered unto life. Keep little and low, then there is nothing to fear. Be contented, if only a few words be given; more will be added if the Great Giver sees it best. He leads safely: this thou knows; yet, to be reminded of what we already know is sometimes a help. The head of the church is sufficient for his own work."

To ———.

"20th.

"Order the children aright. It will save yourselves and them trouble another day. Do not command unless obeyed. The *will* gains ground when they get the upper hand; and when it takes a wrong direction, father and mother must be firm (though as tender as they please), and insist on right. Many goodly parents, through a mistaken tenderness, have suffered wrong habits to gain strength, until years have so matured their child in error, that the parents have had to submit, and to sit down in sorrow over a naughty, and to be feared, lost child. A great accountability rests on parents. Those who are careless and indulgent to the humors of their children, will certainly have to answer for their conduct; and go sorrowing to their graves. I have *seen* this in my short pilgrimage."

To a brother.

"I received thy letter, which was truly acceptable. Thy waking up 'Wide awake,' at that early hour, and getting up after the succession of thoughts, did much interest me. It seemed like reading over my own experience. The intrusion of unwelcome thoughts,

on my most sacred moments, is a grief and affliction, that I did not know thou wast troubled with. We are drawing towards the evening of our day, and I am concerned how we shall answer. Many weaknesses, short-comings, omissions and commissions, are mine; when I am weak, then the enemy is strong; am not always able to remember that 'Help is laid upon one that is mighty.' I crave thy sympathy and the aid of thy spirit, that I may feel a little evidence of Divine approbation, and be able to work out my soul's salvation in the way prescribed."

To the same.

"It is a nice matter to be a clear-sighted Elder; one who is united to the true seed in himself, and in the exercised minister; to live in the life, that the life in public communications may answer the life in us. I do believe it is as quick as a touch; and I would advise thee to see for thyself, and to be quite satisfied, then I am easy thou should encourage, or discourage; but not to go at the instigation of another; that is a poor way of doing, and will hurt both thyself and the one thou may be sent to. Faithful, clean-handed, clear-sighted Friends, may be a great blessing one to another. 'They who feared the Lord, spake often one to another.'"

Letter to Sarah Emlen.

"I feel as though I could not let thee depart, without a fresh testimony of my sincere love for thee, and concern for thy comfort, both of body and mind. The

evidence of the Divine sanction vouchsafed the meeting in which thy concern was considered, did indeed comfort and console me; and I did not doubt but thou rejoiced that a oneness of feeling prevailed. Now the time is drawing on for thy embarking, it may be that a foretaste of hard things to be endured will be meted out, both on the water and on entering upon thy mission. According to my small measure, I do crave thy preservation and patient abiding under the close provings, and very likely new exercises, as Friends and others are differently circumstanced in different places and countries; but to dwell with the seed, which I think, in many places, is much out of sight, will be no easy task. While those who may be at times thy caretakers as thou art passing about, art dwelling too high, O, have a care, dear S., of rising with the light stuff of the day. Thou who hast been from thy youth to the present time marvellously helped through and over uncommon hardships, trials, and besetments, from within and without, led about and instructed, fitted and qualified by the Great Head of the Church for his work and service; it has been secretly my sincere desire that He may continue to be thy leader, and the lifter up of thy head out of low seasons, which I have no doubt will be the case as thou lookest to Him alone. From the first, my faith has been thou wouldst be cared for every way, as heretofore. He who puts thee forth can make all up, and thou wilt not now be suffered to need that which cannot be supplied: so in faith let us leave it.

"My mind will visit thee, in the cabin, in thy little

bed chamber, and in every turn, as far as I can see thee in my mental eye, with a hope of all being well, and of seeing thee face to face in this land again, unless I should be removed. Sometimes I think my way is so hedged up, and weakness so attends, that though I have, out of the abundance of my heart, offered thee the little consolation which seemed with me, together with a hint to be careful of one thing in particular, as if I knew something; yet poverty and nakedness and blindness attend thy friend, and many fears on my own account, and on account of some who stand feeding the flock. If but favored with ability to keep a clear conscience I shall be contented, without expecting to do much or any good.

"I have no claim I know on thy time, or on thy care, yet if thy mind incline thee to write to me, I shall be very glad to hear how thou fares; perhaps no one more glad out of thy own family."

Reply to the foregoing letter.

"I have determined to write unto thee with pen and ink, ever since thy feeling and comforting letter was put into my hands; but from various causes it has hitherto seemed to be impracticable. I tell the truth, and without flattery, that thy pithy letter has been my constant companion over sea and land, and that very many times have I recurred, particularly to the twenty-third line; and many a time have its contents been a help and strength to me. And this may be an encouragement to *thee*, though coming from one of the least and the hindermost of the flock, to discharge faith-

fully every debt, however small it may seem, to the poor and needy. And thus wilt thou, out of thy 'poverty' and 'nakedness,' and 'blindness' and 'many fears,' and 'sometimes sorrowful heart,' be made to rejoice, and though very poor, yet thou wilt make others rich; and having nothing thou wilt possess all things.

"Thou hast doubtless heard long since, of my good passage over the great deep. I shall ever esteem it a peculiar favor. Not a sail did our clever captain ever have to reef, from the time we left Cape May, till we were in sight of Liverpool. And all the crew were so prompt at the word of command, and free from improper expressions, that it really did one's heart good to see them, and to be among the honest-hearted 'tars.' There were one hundred and fourteen in the steerage, (poor Irish, returning home affrighted,) and but ten cabin passengers; so that any one of us could be as retired as we wished, and oft was my little cup so filled to the brim, that I was glad to retreat to my little stateroom to pour it out. Ah, how does the sensible presence of our dear Master assuage all our griefs and privations, and in every situation give peace and contentment.

"When our little barque reached the wharf, there was, as is always the case, a great bustle, each caring for themselves. There I stood gazing, every face and every object new and strange, till pretty soon a gentle squeeze of the elbow caused me to look round, when I saw, to my relief and joy, two nice, plain looking lads, the elder who had hold of me saying very pleasantly,

we are J. H.'s sons. Mother has been down several times since she heard the vessel was in the river, but as it had not come, she sent us with her love, and wishes thee to come to our house. This again filled my heart to the brim. I was not long getting into the carriage, nor long going through the tedious, dark and gloomy looking streets of Liverpool, before I was welcomed by our Friend at her dwelling; but how I felt is not for my pen to describe: not a word could I utter. She kindly helped me up stairs, and after giving me many assurances of her sympathy, and that her home should now be my home, she left me; of which I was glad, that I might give full vent to my heart. After tea, I began to feel better, went to bed and rested sweetly. But O, what a contrast does the busy scene of such a city afford, from that of the one we had just left! where we had only the quiet and beautiful bosom of the ocean before us and on all sides, without noise of whip, or horse, or wheel!

"The next day, in company with our Friends, I went to Lancaster Quarterly Meeting. I hardly felt fit to go, but thought best to do so. It was not a large meeting, and we were favored, I thought, with a little of the ointment. It fell to my lot to remind some, that while they were so careful to provide bread and so forth, for their children, that it was vastly more important, that they should instruct them how to labor for that bread which cometh down from heaven, &c. And some relief was afforded to my poor overflowing mind, by returning thanks for my safe arrival, and in-

terceding that the angel of His presence who had been with me, might overshadow my beloved ones at home.

"There is a spirit in this land, that is trying to insinuate itself into the Church, and would fain persuade the daughter of Zion to believe, that more liberty is now granted to her children, than could have been in the beginning; that this is a different age of the world; and a different state of the Church, and of things altogether; and these things bring the living members into great straits, and cause them to go heavily on their way.

"We are not to remind the children of the danger of the love of dress, &c., for 'Their minds are not in such trifles.' We are not to tell them that 'The foxes have holes, and the fowls of the air have nests, but the Son of Man had not where to lay his head.' * * *

"I have ventured to tell some, that I hope we shall not lose the Quaker badge. And yet, among all this 'Light stuff,' there is that which is excellent, things that are lovely and of good report; so that if there is any praise or any virtue, we ought to 'Think of these things.' But that the chaff will be sifted out without a grain of the weighty wheat falling to the ground, I have not a doubt; and that the testimonies of truth given to this people to uphold in the face of the world, will be supported by others who will come in by convincement. How many, very many times have I thought of late, of the centurion's conversion, and how our blessed Redeemer should have marvelled at his faith, and said, 'Many shall come from the east and from the west, and shall sit down with Abraham and

Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of Heaven, but the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness.' If this should happen to us as a people, through unfaithfulness, what a mournful thing will it be!" * * * *

To a beloved Friend.

"3rd mo., 1845.

"I received the shawl, and the parcel for the blind woman also; the latter very suitable. Though as much obliged as I can be, by thy care for me, yet it is so bright, light and shiny, that I cannot wear it with easy feelings. It is long since I turned away my eyes from these things, and have suffered deeply in the self-denying path in which I have had to walk; to turn into them again, I fear the sense I have of my duty, may in displeasure, be removed, and I left in darkness. The *cross* at times is *yet* a *cross*, even *now* in my sixtieth year; but the command is *obey*, &c. So in near love and tender feeling for thee in this delicate position, I am,

"Affectionately, &c."

To her brother Benjamin.

"1845.

"I would refer to thy account of our Friend's communication; glad it was in 'Gospel authority.' When our preaching is not in that, and the Elders and others who sit and listen, cannot discover it, we are in a lapsed condition of Society. I sincerely hope we may be preserved; some will likely fall off, but may not

the body. I do feel strong desires for her preservation, and that her natural feelings may not rule in her, but her better feelings."

"I was early discouraged this morning in looking towards our meeting, as to how I could attend and feel at all lively, or fit to face the meeting; but suddenly remembered, 'Help is laid on one who is mighty,' &c., and so it proved, being helped through to my comfort. Our Friend, E. Comfort, too, was favored in a lively communication—not lengthy. So we move along. Were it not for the putting forth at times of His hand, 'Through the hole of the door,' our spirits would fail. I want to be found daily leaning my dependence on the 'One who is mighty.' In troublous times it is great safety, and indeed at all times.

"Dear Thomas Kite's escape from us, seems to me to be one of those dispensations of inscrutable wisdom, about which we have nothing to say. But the lesson it teaches we must remember, 'Be ye also ready."

To the same.

"As regards ———, there was not a giving up in early life, in honest faithfulness. Now, as the day is far spent, and the night is approaching, there is no time to waste. Let us try to hold on, each one of us; look straight before us with the little faith which may in great mercy be vouchsafed, though under many weaknesses."

"I was interested in thy account of dear H. W.'s labors in your little meeting, in its every day dress;

truly it was a remarkable meeting, and her labor ought to have due weight."

To a brother.

"My visit in retrospect seems easy to my feelings, hoping no harm was done to the good cause, which I felt very fearful about, and hardly had confidence to go around. I feel particularly satisfied that I was at your Monthly Meeting, I have had a fresh sense, that if ever our Zion arises and shines, those on whose shoulders the testimonies rest, will have to be humble and watchful, to keep themselves and families, and to be good examples to the flock. After abiding here a sufficient time, and their fidelity and faithfulness proved, strength will be furnished to lend a helping hand to others, in the way that Best Wisdom sees best. I do not know much, but thought I saw as I sat in the last meeting, a work to do like building over against our own houses. Notwithstanding discouraging things exist, more or less, everywhere, yet I felt some encouragement, more than I often do."

To ———.

"One day more and it will be thirty-one years since my husband's death. Thou remembers that evening; to me it seems very fresh in memory. Many trials since have I encountered; have had much to feel, in that the Good Hand, and the sympathy of many bore me up—surprisingly so to myself. We had so full and perfect assurance of his safe entrance into rest, that to mourn for him would have been folly, but for ourselves great need."

"I felt sad at hearing of dear ———. Were it not for the suffering the poor tabernacle has to undergo in her case as well as that of the one just mentioned, we need not mourn. I seem to have a sense that when the period arrives to her, all will be well. And we who are yet conflicting with the cares of time and many probations, may we not hope that our latter end may be like to that of the righteous."

"I performed my visit to the school to a good degree of satisfaction, and came home stronger in body and mind than I went; though not without a sense that it was and is a low time in best things, with many in our Society, in most places."

"My strength is little, and close on us are two Select Meetings, a Preparative and Quarterly; and three young women to visit whose cases are in our meeting. Now to perform all this as it presents, to the honor of Truth, is my sincere desire. I cannot help craving the prayers of the spiritual travellers in the Lord's cause, that His own works may praise him, and that man's works and workings may be laid low."

"I was glad to hear of the Meeting, and of S.'s living ministry, which is a favor of great account in these days, when the members of our poor Society are so often fed with husks—comparatively speaking.

"Friends must draw near in feeling, keep firm, and not give away their strength in needless words and uncalled for actions or movements, and it seems to me they will be helped through and over all forward and unsanctified spirits."

"I crave that thy hands may be strong, and if we expect to succeed, our exercises must be to ourselves, apart from those who lightly look on these things; seeking and improving suitable opportunities with those who are the objects of our care. Then out of weakness we shall be made strong, and He who careth for his own will help, and we shall see the desire of our hearts. Were this the earnest care and travail of the parents and caretakers of youth, good fruits would appear, and multitudes saved from the broad way that leadeth to destruction. This is a day of peculiar desire to run into fashions and customs; but let all guard their precious charge; great accountability lies at the door of parents."

"At our Monthly Meeting, R. S. was engaged to minister faithfully to us; encouraging to 'Bring our deeds to the light.' The subject was closely followed; and the consequence of not doing so, but hiding them in the dark, until that day comes, (and it hastens, and is nearer than we are aware of to some of us,) when all we have said and done, will appear in the light, and we be judged accordingly. It felt to me a solemn call and warning."

"The longest journey through life is very short when compared with a never-ending eternity; and on this short period our claim to a happy eternity depends, if faithfully filled up, yea or nay; so that it seems as if we have no time to spare, between our religious and social duties. With the latter, I include the care of

providing 'Things honest in the sight of all men.' R. M. has been spending a few days with us. He seems very clever, as indeed he ought to be. But so many of our nice young Friends make a stand at a certain place, and let their day be spending."

"Your dear father's work was cut short at an early age, and very unexpectedly to himself and me; yet, I fully believe, he was prepared after wearisome days and sleepless nights, wherein the end was, no doubt in wisdom, hidden from him. He was able to say, he believed he should die, and felt an assurance he would be received into glory. Very peaceful and in full faith he closed his short life."

"I have been particularly struck, in reading the life of Thomas Shillitoe, to find him over and over again out of great weakness and difficulty and trial, as a last resort, summing up his energies and resolving to 'Do his best;' and it has conveyed instruction to me. If under our provings we endeavor to do our best, no doubt we shall be helped, as was his experience, even to admiration.

"Our meeting yesterday, was, to me, better than often. Our Friend, E. Comfort, gave us a short, lively exhortation, to cast our dependence upon the Saviour, and call on Him in extremities, as did the disciples when tossed with a tempest and likely to be wrecked. 'Master, carest thou not that we perish? And He arose and rebuked the winds, and there was a great

calm.' He kept to his text, and was soon done. It seemed fresh and lively."

"12th mo. 29th. Heard the sad tidings of T. W.'s son being drowned in the Schuylkill. The family are in deep affliction. The body not yet found. I wish sincerely this may be a warning to all children. His parents had so much objected to it, that he went without their knowledge.

"Teach thy child obedience, and he shall bless thee. Be watchful in time, dear ——, over those given you, that so you may be clear when the solemn inquiry may be made, Where are those lambs I have given thee in the wilderness of this world?"

"3rd mo., 1845. I desire our every day walk may be so guarded, as to encourage the good in our scholars, and help them on in the best sense. I believe there never was a time of more need of careful conscientious teachers of children. There is such a torrent of fashion, that many young females are much carried away with it, to their great hindrance of school studies. School-keeping increases in importance, in my view, as I advance in life."

To ——.

"The first lesson little folks should learn, is to obey father and mother. When they fail to learn it while young, it is hardly likely they ever will learn it. Disobedient sons or daughters, grown up, or growing up, towards men and women are an odious sight, and seldom

they come to any good. I feel more and more the responsibility of parents; we do need assisting grace to get along through all."

To one of her children.

"Christopher's communication was lively and full of entreaty—a good deal like conversation till about half way through, when he raised melodiously his voice and seemed helped over all. He commenced with supposing, that we all believed that every good gift was from God; that we have nothing but what we have received; that we are entirely dependent; we could save neither body nor soul; that faith was His gift; if we believed there was a way to be saved, it was His gift. So he stripped us of all things, and we saw ourselves standing naked and alone, before the Great All-seeing eye: here he brought in the Omniscience of our great Caretaker; his compassion for our helplessness, as we with sincere hearts looked towards Him; and when we fell short and did evil, and repented, and humbled ourselves, how he would make the dry ground of the heart, springs of water! That 'Instead of the brier, shall come up the myrtle tree, and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.' The diligent and right attendance of all our religious meetings he encouraged; though sometimes we might feel poor and low, yet he would not send empty away those who waited for Him in singleness of heart. He said, 'A little unfaithfulness, and a very little too, how quickly it weighs down the scale against the little good we may have done;' con-

cluding with—'O Friends, be encouraged, be faithful,' &c."

Yearly Meeting of 1845.

"4th mo. 22nd. At this sitting, went through with the reading and consideration of the answers to the Queries. There were lively and feeling remarks from several Friends on various subjects. Dear I. C. opened in a sensible and feeling manner, the subject of our young women placing themselves in stores, exposed to temptations which they were not able to bear, to evade and depart from our testimonies in dress and address, &c. She said, 'If such who are obliged to seek a livelihood, would place themselves under the care of careful Friends, either as instructors of the children, or assistants in families, they would not only be tenderly cared for, but brought on their way in a religious sense; many in her country, were now heads of families, and as princesses in our Society, who had filled such situations in early life.' E. E. finished out the concern, and it obtained a feeling in the meeting which, I hope, will not be lost.

"One Friend made a good, sound remark in regard to lessening our expenses; that by not limiting our wants to needful things, our husbands, fathers and brothers had to keep tugging at the laboring oar to support us."

To her son.

"7th mo., 1846.

"Thou wilt doubtless attend the little meeting at

Stroudsburg to-day. Well, though very few in number, yet if the few be alive in the '*Root*,' they will live. Meetings are small in many other places, and often poor. Now do thou help all thou canst; endeavor earnestly to maintain a lively exercise of spirit, and this will be a help to others who are alive. To me it is a fearful thing to go to meetings without some right preparation of heart previously; supposing or trusting that to come after we get there. But we need not look for much if we do not try. When I have had much to do on meeting morning, and hardly time to get ready at all; yet with my mind turned with desire for the right thing, a little soul-sustaining bread, I have been favored with livelier meetings than at some other times when, as to the outward, more ease has been my lot."

H. W. kept her usual account of the Yearly Meeting of 1846; a portion of which follows:—"We have had during the week several communications from concerned Friends: one from E. E. to young mothers, portraying their difficulties, watching by day and by night their infant charge, feeling often very sad, and as one formerly expressed, 'As one out of mind.' Yet she said, that, if they were concerned faithfully to maintain their places in the Truth, and imbue the minds of their tender charge with that which is good, they were doing much for the cause of Truth, there being many ways of exalting the kingdom of the Redeemer. The seed thus sown in early life, was often greatly blessed,

being watered with tears and prayers of the anxious mother.

"A sense of heavenly regard was experienced to be near us in the different sittings of this Yearly Meeting, and it may be thankfully acknowledged, Best help was afforded."

To one of her children.

"12th mo. 26th, 1846.

"I thought this morning, on coming to the bedside of my dear brother Josiah, he could not live through the day. We see and believe his end is near. His sufferings are very heavy, yet he bears them without a murmur. His patience is sustained all through, which is a great favor; is quiet and sensible. I do plainly see, that though he has been largely afflicted for the last four years, yet mercy has been mixed with it. These afflictions, which are but for a moment, will, I trust, work for him a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. We are poor creatures, and require much purging, to fit us for the Blessed Kingdom. These solemn truths are humbling; may we keep them in remembrance for our benefit."

To a daughter.

"Hold fast that thou hast received, let no man take thy crown. New exercises may be thine, and closer provings than heretofore; but we should remember He who appoints and permits, is all wise and rich in mercy; that I do desire thou may not give out or give back. 'Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the

world.' It might seem I did not feel much for thee; but I do feel plenty for my strength, and desire thy patient perseverance from day to day, in and through the varied trials greater and less, not being cast down nor lifted up. 'The race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong.'"

"To acknowledge our errors and short-comings is the only way to secure peace, and a great favor it is to have our peace broken and rest disturbed, until willing to confess and forsake wrong things."

"While some of us cannot say, we want my dear brother back again, after having, as we believe, passed the boisterous billows and landed safely, yet I for one, feel as I did not expect, a loneliness, and a void that cannot be filled by any one left. Though lame and crippling, he had resources; was free and open, anticipating my wants, offering and opening a way to keep along. Father once remarked on looking at something he had done, 'A liberal man deviseth liberal things, and by liberal things shall he stand.'"

"30th. You will be very careful of all the little folks, for they may come to be valuable. Great is the responsibility of parents, and those intrusted with the care of children; by being neglectful or remiss we incur accountability, which, in a day to come, we may find heavy on us, and no ability then to discharge it. As a mother, I feel all these things."

"I feel as if it would be a satisfaction in a day to come, to the children of my brother, Josiah Albertson, and to his friends, to have a little notice preserved of him. He died at his residence in Plymouth, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, on the 28th day of Twelfth month, 1846, in the fifty-eighth year of his age.

"He was four years older than myself, and the next oldest of our family of children; my sympathy and feeling for him under heavy work and journeys, not very far, with the care of business, horses and wagon, when but young, too young it seemed to me; my troubles were then great on his account, lest some accident should happen; many escapes from dangers might be named, showing the watchful care of a kind Providence over the workmanship of his hands, which my heart did then tenderly feel and acknowledge. Our father's business engaged him at home, where he found it needful to husband time, and be careful of expenses, &c., to make a living with his trade, (being a tailor,) and twenty acres of land.

"Energy and intrepidity were traits of character then forming which never changed, only as grace governed in after life: he was naturally generous, evincing fortitude in difficulties, and self-command. He did not receive as much school education as the rest of us, owing to the difficulty of sparing him from home.

"As he grew to manhood, his mind became religiously exercised, and he was very careful of his conduct and conversation, and a good example to all around him; the savor of his spirit was felt by those with whom he had intercourse. * * * * *

"In wisdom inscrutable, in the midst of health and strength, he was overtaken with a paralytic stroke on his left side; it was so heavy as to give little or no hope he would long survive it; yet he very gradually improved until able to walk with a crutch, though his hand did not recover its use. This improvement was by little and little for four years. He became capable of attending to his worldly affairs; I often thought the good hand of Providence was to be seen in opening a way for him to get along: ordered his work on his farm with his wonted care; often looked after my affairs, and in many ways relieved me. * * * * He had no return of the paralysis; but two months previous to his decease, his strength began to decline, appetite failed, and a fever set in; being in a very prostrated state, he took to his bed, two weeks previous to his end: this latter period was marked with an increase of bodily suffering. * * * * * As dissolution approached, his sufferings lessened, and he calmed down into an easy and very still state, drawing his breath gently, shorter and shorter, until the last. It was a very solemn time, yet amid it we were greatly consoled, in that mercy and kindness were afforded to the sufferer of an easy passage out of time, and Best Help enabling him to bear patiently the affliction, no murmur having escaped him, as we remember, from first to last, during an indisposition of four years' duration.

"The interment of his remains was in Friends' burial ground at Plymouth, the 30th of Twelfth month, 1846. While gathered in stillness on that occasion at

the house, my feelings were much tendered, in taking a retrospective view of his life, and very clearly seeing the merciful compassion of a watchful Providence in laying him by, and waiting, truly 'waiting to be gracious;' not in the twinkling of an eye, as it were, cutting the tender thread of life, but helping through to the end. For which favor, may we return thanks where alone it is due; and humbly endeavor so to walk the little time we may be spared, as to end well at last, and be entitled to a place in the mansions of rest.

HANNAH WILLIAMS."

"2nd mo. 8th, 1847."

The Yearly Meeting of 1847, was the last H. W. attended. She wrote concerning it: "The Queries and answers thereto, were read and solidly considered, and some good and suitable remarks were made, tending to stir up to faithfulness in attending our religious meetings, and a proper exercise of spirit therein. To the third Query, some very sound, old-fashioned advice was given to parents and children, such as I used to hear when I was young; and that then fastened as a nail in a sure place, being, I humbly believe, blessed to me, and as 'Bread cast upon the waters,' found after many days.

"Dear H. G., aged and feeble as she is, made lively and suitable remarks, as to the care Friends ought to maintain over themselves in treating with offenders, in order that it may be to their help.

"The annual Query was read, and the answer; which mentioned the decease of many valuable and worthy

ministers and elders, within the past year; to which subject E. P. and E. E. spoke in an interesting and encouraging manner to the younger Friends, encouraging them to exercise their gifts in faithfulness to manifested duty, so that the places of those may be filled up. This has been a day of favor indeed, and afforded encouragement to my drooping feelings."

To one of her children.

"7th mo., 1847.

"Sarah Emlen had an appointed meeting here on Third-day. Her concern was chiefly for our young Friends, and it was a good meeting. She commenced her communication thus: I have been thinking what a blessing it is to have bread to eat, water to drink, and raiment to put on: all this is from the hand of a bountiful Creator; we cannot command even one shower, and how soon our supplies might be cut off. It is recorded early that the charge to man was, that he should eat bread by the sweat of his brow, and so we see it. Tracing the subject along, she spiritualized upon it, and showed how it was that some had no bread in their houses or water in their cisterns, &c. She spoke close to the 'Children of my people;' that if they were not faithful others would be called in, and the crowns intended for them would be set upon the heads of others. In addressing the meeting at large, she spoke of that Reprover, or witness against evil, which all were favored with, and which shows right from wrong. This, though stifled and disregarded, and even forgotten, yet in the last day, it

would rise up and judge them; be brought to their remembrance, not by the aid of their natural faculties, but would come up and be their reprover and judge. She did deliver the word faithfully."

To the same.

"22nd.

"Yesterday morning I was very weak; could almost have thought too much so to go to meeting; but remembered I gained nothing by staying, when I could go. At meeting, we had our Friends E. Pitfield and William Scattergood; both were concerned in public testimony. The Apostles and followers of the Saviour were told, they were not to rejoice that the spirits were subject unto them, but rather rejoice that their names were written in heaven. This was the only cause of rejoicing. This part of dear E.'s testimony was very precious to me. The passage concerning the woman who came in the crowd and touched the hem of the garment, was recited. 'Come just as thou art, in living faith, and thou canst not be hid; but He who has a feeling of our infirmities, will notice thee and give thee help, and enable to go on thy way rejoicing.' I told my friends after meeting, I was so low in body and mind, that I had not perceived the clouds gathering, and that a gospel shower was just upon us."

To a daughter.

"25th. Labor while it is day, for we know not when the season may come, in which no work can be done; and I more fear a spiritual death, than the death of the body. So, dear child, be faithful to all right

openings; after trying the fleece, wet and dry, a true judgment may be come at by the sincere in heart. Thy work seems to be given out in small lots, adapted to thy strength and circumstances. I look at it as being in great wisdom."

To her brother Benjamin.

"The situation of our Society in general and in the particular, hangs as a heavy load upon me all the time. O, we are a backslidden people! so very few live up to the truth as professed by us. Turnings and overturnings we must expect, for, as a Society we deserve scourging and sifting, and none of us will stand, unless our names are found written in the Lamb's book of life. I was not at all comforted in reading that long account of London Yearly Meeting in "The Friend." It showed a stretching out their arms far and wide, and encouraging one another with prospects to preach the gospel abroad; I felt afraid it would induce a going without being sent; which we know cannot profit the people."

To Sarah Emlen.

"Our dear cousin, E. F., died on Fifth-day morning last, after an illness of about four days. Her mind had been turned of latter time, to mention a prospect that her end was near; was much concerned lest she was not pure enough to enter the kingdom. Being reminded of her spotless, innocent life, there could not be cause for fear: 'Ah,' she says, 'we must be very pure to enter the kingdom.' She was favored to have her

senses to the last; was very still, and so gently did her end approach, that the family who were sitting around, did not know the moment when she ceased to breathe. 'Blessed are the dead,' may we not say, who [have] died in the Lord."

Letter to Sarah Emlen.

"I herewith send thy little note, though can assure thee it has done no harm. I can understand every word of it. That, or something, has brought thee very near in feeling. Almost all winter have I been, at times, thinking of thee, with earnest desires for thy preservation. One morning lately, on awaking, thou wast brought to remembrance, with the text thou quoted on opening thy concern relative to paying a visit to England, in the Select Yearly Meeting: 'When I said my foot slippeth, thy mercy, O Lord, held me up.' Well, I said, there are still slippery places, and felt earnest in desire that He may still continue to hold thee up. 'Hold fast that thou hast, let no man take thy crown.' Thy life through has been one of deep wading, and hidden exercise oft thy portion, attended with many discouragements. If I mistake not, these latter days are as full as any previous ones, so that my soul craves His mercy may still hold thee up, to His praise, and that his mind and will through thee (though in thy apprehension feeble instrument,) may go forth to the comfort and help of many poor souls. I feel nothing but the language of encouragement in thy close provings and trials, which to thee may appear peculiar."

To A. T——.

"I am concerned, that thou and I should never forget the early impressions of good; how clearly did we see the things we ought to do; the path was plain and our convictions strong; great simplicity in all respects was laid on us. Now never let us forget this; for we have need to fear, that the way the current is rolling, we may entirely lose or forget the dew of our youth. There is something getting in, and in places gotten into our Society, which is a good deal harder to detect by careless observers, than the spirit which rent us eighteen years ago. It is a nice, easy spirit, very accommodating, full of professions of love—has found an easier way for inquirers after truth; in short, as I heard a dear aged father in the truth express, 'It is a religion without the cross.' So let us mind and be watching."

To her brother-in-law.

"Greatly do I deplore the state our Society is in, both far and near, in this and foreign lands, where we are known as a people. Were it not that I believe it is the will of the Great Head of his Church to keep unto himself a proved and tried people, who may serve Him in the 'Beauty of holiness,' I should fear this trial would be too much for us. But I trust, humbly so, that He will order the cause Himself, and use clear-sighted, clean-handed instruments, through whom His own work will be seen."

To her son.

"Ever remember that the Society of Friends are a

plain people, and that too for the best reason, even because our Lord and Master was plain, meek and lowly; and as He dwells by his spirit in our hearts, He leads and guides His followers into plainness and simplicity in dress and address. It is the very result of a faithful attention to the light of Christ. All the riches and grandeur of the world will do nothing for us, but there are riches that will endure; mayst thou possess them. I know temptations present; keep thy mind inward, and thy eye on the Lord, who will regard the concern of his children. Be very sincere in thy desires, and He will bestow grace and furnish strength for every occasion."

To ——— and ———.

"8th mo. 27th, 1847.

"At our week-day meeting, unexpectedly dropped in our Friends William and Elizabeth Evans. Their services were remarkable. It was our own state opened, and the way by which we would be helped, shown us; and also the way by which there would be more and more outgoing, until there would not be one more young Friend, or older one either, left to go out. This last would be and is the work of our adversary, persuading us to press on, and get, and get, more of this world's goods and wealth collected, the pursuit of the things of time engrossing the mind, so that there is no room left for the better work. Nor did he fix all the enemy's stratagems on a worldly spirit; but those who were poor and had but little, he, the enemy, would sink down into degradation; they would fall away from

a care, and trust, and reliance on Best help; some who had begun well, and run well for a time, would fall away. He told us, the same thing that kept our forefathers in the Truth would keep us, even a faithful attention to the pointings of the Spirit of Truth in our own hearts daily and hourly; this watchful, waiting state, would keep us from over-reaching, and we would grow in grace, from that of a little child to the state of men and women, fathers and mothers in the church. Though we were in imminent danger, yet he seemed to have a view that some would stand and be found in their lots and places, when the fathers and mothers were removed; that the day would come, when the hearts of sons and daughters would be touched—those of the highways and hedges—and finding some with whom they could unite, they would join with them, and so there would be raised up faithful witnesses for the Truth.

"I cannot give it in his language, but this was part of the substance, and corresponded with dear S. Emlen's view and service when at our meeting. We were also told, that making a profession of the truth, and holding sound doctrine, and going to meetings, and thinking of these things on First-day, would not do; nothing short of coming to the truth, and minding its pointings and motions in our hearts; doing justly, loving mercy and walking humbly before our God day by day: though we had Abraham to our father, and we were the children and grand-children of faithful, worthy Friends who had stood upright and firm in their day and had entered into their rest;

yet this would not avail us; the work was an individual work, and each one must do it for his or herself.

"As for dear E.'s communication, I cannot give it: it was an address to the 'Poor in spirit;' and was followed by a supplication for all states, even for those who were secretly and covertly inquiring how they should do to add to what they had already acquired, and increase their gains. To be thus remembered and invited and helped, is no light favor; may their labors of love be blessed to us."

To the same.

"10th mo. 27th.

"If you are not in the way of it already, I think it would be right to have some suitable time for reading the Scriptures, or in some good book: an interesting journal which neither of you may have read. I have had great satisfaction, at times particularly, in reading with our family gathered. Even when we have had company with us, if our time for reading came, I have mentioned our practice in that respect, they have approved, and it seemed to add weight, so that I have felt paid for what was a cross to yield to. Should ——— feel hurried, or concerned with business, time may be found. The prophet ordered the woman to bake for him the little cake first, when she thought she had nothing to spare; yet, by her obedience, how the little was increased."

To a Friend.

"11th mo. 20th.

"O that there were more nursing fathers and mo-

thers in the Church. I do verily believe our dear young Friends would not scatter so, and appear as sheep without a shepherd; but the world, the world and its attractions, have an influence even on the aged, in too many cases. I wish to be found doing the little given me to do, honestly.

"There is great need that we be not stumbling blocks to honest inquirers after truth. W. B. has attended our meeting, also a young woman from Norristown. Strangers, one here and another there, may be compelled to come in and fill up the vacant places of those to whom the invitation has been extended, and they, too much engaged, have sought to be excused. I consider this a very interesting day to us as a people. I think I may say our meetings latterly, to me, have been marked with an unusual degree of solemn feeling."

"2nd mo., 1848. So dear children try, with your mother, to hold on in the best way we can; then I trust, at the end of the race a blessing will be given. Our Monthly Meeting was held yesterday; many of our Friends called to see me. They had an interesting meeting. I think there is a little life stirring, more than some weeks back. I feel more encouraged in the spirit of my mind.

"3rd mo. 2nd. As I lay awake early this morning, and remembered your long, cold ride to meeting, and the exercise of faith and patience called for twice a week, I was concerned that you should not forget whose

subjects ye are; not the subjects of one who cannot pay, but of Him who often suddenly enriches from His inexhaustible store-house, filling our hearts with love, which makes hard things easy, bitter things sweet, and that which is crooked, straight."

To a brother.

"I cannot well forbear acknowledging the great kindness of thy letter last evening, and that excellent testimony. How fully could I take it in and own it. It is encouraging truly, and my concern long hath been, that sound Friends in our highly favored Yearly Meeting, may be able through Best Help, to see eye to eye, and act in true unity; none reaching forth a hand unbidden. The work is the Lord's, and it seems to me He will take care of his own, and of His own cause, while the servants wait in patience, bearing and forbearing, eyeing their blessed, holy Leader."

To her brother B.

"We are now 'Walking on a sea of glass, mingled with fire.' Here and there is one, in a covert manner, undoing the religious standing of Friends. This is done by whispering to such as open their ear to it. Do not thou be one to listen to tales. If a Friend has slipped, it is not the way to help him or her; and if past hope, time will make it appear: give an erring one time to recover."

To a friend.

"I have heard of thy illness, and doubt not thou

hast suffered great pain; if desertion of all good has also attended, it must have been hard to bear; but I have hoped the Master has comforted and renewed thy faith: we cannot expect much, but if only a crumb is handed, and that blessed, it satisfies. My sick turns have been my best times heretofore. I cannot say much, for out of the very depth of poverty I took up my pen."

"3rd mo. 11th, 1848. I have been sick all winter; only out twice since the middle of Twelfth month; am gradually weakening. If it be not the will of Providence to renovate my wasted frame, and health generally, I may not be long here; but am thankful I can say, I am resigned to His will, either life or death."

The last meeting our friend H. W. attended, was one appointed for H. C. H., on the 28th of Second month, which seemed too much for her in her enfeebled state. Her love for assembling with her friends for the purpose of Divine worship, lived after her bodily powers failed, and often when very feeble, would she rise above her weakness and go to meetings, thus evincing her love to her dear Lord and Saviour. When the time came that she could thus mingle no more with us, she cheerfully gave up, remarking on her family's return from meeting one day, "I have given up the idea of ever occupying my seat there again—am entirely resigned —feel so easy and peaceful, can but compare my mind to the peaceful ocean."

On the 16th she said, "I hope I shall be favored

with patience to bear my affliction, and that we may be supported and sustained in the trying hour," adding, "I believe it will be the case."

Second month 6th, she had a slight hemorrhage from the lungs; after which observed, "It seems to remind me how slender a thread binds me to time." And on hearing of the decease of a friend, remarked, "So it is we pass away; no fixedness here."

Although she had given up the idea of ever occupying her place at meeting again, on the 8th of Third month feeling a little better, and the weather being very fine, she remarked; "I think I can go to meeting to-morrow, if the day be as pleasant as this." That night, however, her cough allowed her very little rest, and the morning was rainy; on this she observed, "My plans seem, as it were, written on the sand, a wave comes and washes them away."

12th. She said, "It seems as though a little respite had in mercy been allowed, that I might finish what yet remained to be done: I do not feel as if any great service would be required, but some little matters rest with me, which I hope to have strength to perform." This she was favored to do, having private opportunities with several persons, the import of which was known to them and her alone.

After attending to a little matter in the writing line, which had been on her mind for some days, remarked, "How much better I feel when I do my duty. How comfortable and happy I feel. Am sure you could not wish to have me well again, I am so happy." Her heart seemed to overflow with love and gratitude, often

contrasting her comforts with others under affliction. Nothing she so frequently desired as stillness. "Now let us be still," was a remark she often made; and also, "May I be preserved in patience." Truly it may be said, she was most exemplary in patience, quietness and resignation. She frequently spoke of her death with the utmost composure; gave directions relative to the articles of dress needed; "That there might be no confusion at the time." A new feature of the disease appearing, she remarked, "Do not be troubled;" and again, "It is only the flesh that is wasting away."

It seemed to be her desire to strengthen, and not distress those about her. Her wonted placid cheerfulness continued, and she often entered into pleasant and instructive conversation. Notwithstanding she was generally favored in so remarkable a manner, with peace of mind and holy confidence, yet she had seasons of close proving; remarked at one time, "I have felt tried and proved this morning, and had to remember a remark of a dear Friend, since deceased, that "The enemy is permitted to follow us to the very threshold of eternity." She was, however, soon favored to centre down in humble quietness and calm dependence.

4th mo. 12th. Had a suffering time from a severe stitch in her side, on which occasion she remarked, "Do not be too anxious, my case is in good hands; I do not feel uneasy." Daily she seemed to be endeavoring to prepare those about her for the time of trial; expressed the desire she felt that quiet might be observed, and that things might be done decently and in order.

20th. On being fixed for the night, she said, "One thing more I want;" being queried with what it was, replied, "An evidence that all is right."

21st. She said, "There was a passage of Scripture unexpectedly brought to my remembrance this morning, which I hardly knew how to apply. I was feeling desirous I might look into my own state, when this was presented, 'I came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.'" It was observed to her, she might take comfort in it. "Oh," she replied, "I never could class myself with the righteous."

5th mo. 11th. She said to a relation that was with us, "Is it not the practice of Friends in the city, to bow their shutters after the decease of a friend?" Being told it was; she said, "I should like it omitted in this case." She had previously spoken on this subject, and said, she "Believed there was great inconsistency in Friends doing so."

11th. After passing a trying night, she remarked in the morning with great sweetness, "Through the goodness and mercy of a kind Providence, I feel a little better." Had a call this day from three of her beloved friends, members of her meeting; after they left the room she observed, "How well they look," adding, "But I would not exchange situations with them, and have again to contend with the conflicts of time."

12th. This morning, after the doctor had gone out of the room, she said, "Doctor sees he cannot do any thing for me." Shortly after, on offering her her usual medicine, she calmly, but earnestly remarked, "These things will not keep me here,—you must let me go."

Towards evening, suffering from pain of body, she earnestly desired that her understanding might not fail her; and shortly after, put up a short but fervent petition to the Throne of Grace, that "A little relief might be afforded," which was mercifully the case; after which she observed, "I shall not be here long." In great tenderness, she then bade some present farewell; after which she was very quiet, her work appearing to be done; she gently breathed shorter and shorter, until her purified spirit departed; and those who were left had the consoling belief that her robes were washed and made white, and she prepared to join the just of all generations, in ascribing glory and honor, thanksgiving and praise, to Him who sitteth on the Throne, and the Lamb forever.

Her remains were interred in Friends' burial ground at Plymouth, on Second-day, the 15th of Fifth month, 1848. She was in the sixty-fourth year of her age.

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N. MANCHESTER,
INDIANA